CEC is getting ready for 2018 general elections. PAGE 2
'Ex-HSEM chief, girlfriend brought beer to Rota for political event' PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

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75¢

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JOINT TRAINING EXERCISE
Helicopters take off from the Runway Able on Tinian. U.S. Marines with Company India, 3d Battalion, 8th Marines are taking part in Jeanne D' Arc 2017, a joint training exercise with French, British, and Japanese soldiers on Tinian. This exercise gave an opportunity for those participating to train together and work with allies while sharing tactics, strengthening coordination and communication, and increasing interoperability.
GUNNERY SGT. JUSTIN PARK

$20K bail for Marpi rob suspect

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A $20,000 cash bail was imposed yesterday on a 28-year-old bakery employee who allegedly robbed three tourists along Banzai Cliff Road in Marpi on Sunday afternoon.

Alvin Jacob Iguel Blas faces charges of robbery and disturbing the peace. He was taken before Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio yesterday for a bail hearing.

His lawyer is assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit. Assistant attorney general Jonathan Wilbersheild appeared for the government.

Police said that, in an interview with Blas on Sunday night, he admit-

See $20K on Page 4

MVA: Robberies hurt the CNMI

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority has expressed alarm over a spate of robberies in the CNMI, prompting it to warn tourists against visiting Marpi alone.

"It's just so disturbing. These tourists are very trusting and they know that the people here are known for being friendly. These [armed robbers] pretend that they are friendly but they have ulterior motives. It is disturbing for us at MVA," said MVA managing director Chris Concepcion.

Concepcion cited the armed robbery incident on Mother's Day, which was caught on video and had gone viral among tourists. The suspect, who is now in custody, reportedly took advantage of the friendly image of the CNMI by offering to take pictures of the tourists before snatching a pink backpack contain-

See MVA on Page 4

DPS fundraiser raises $5K

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety hosted its 7th Annual Jailhouse Fundraiser yesterday afternoon at the GIG Discotheque in Garapan and raised $5,000.

DPS Commissioner Robert Guerrero said the money raised will fund events that are lined up for the month of May in celebration of Police Month.

Public Safety Awareness Month vice chair Jen McQuay confirmed

See DPS on Page 4

'Next CUC board should be more transparent'

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Rep. Francisco S. Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) hopes that whoever Gov. Ralph DLG Torres appoints to the new Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board would be more transparent in implementing its advisory functions over the autonomous government agency.

Dela Cruz, who chairs the House Committee on Public Utilities and Communications, said this would be among his recommendations if ever Torres asks him.

"The governor must appoint individuals that are business- and technically-inclined. He must appoint members who are ethical, transparent, as well as individuals who understand not only how to make policy decisions but most importantly, the state of CUC and how to improve it," said Dela Cruz.

His committee held an oversight hearing last month on the CUC board and, based on their findings, had recommended that either the board members resign or for Torres

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ASIA
Philippine lawmakers kill an impeachment complaint against President Duterte.
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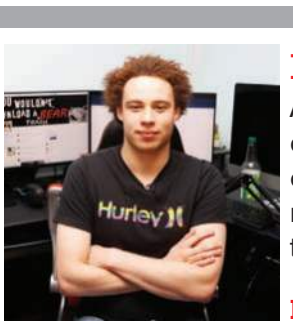

FOCUS
A British computer expert credited with cracking the WannaCry cyberattack doesn't think he's hero.
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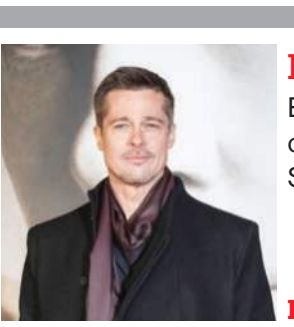

LIFE & STYLE
Brad Pitt found one connection with Gen. Stanley McChrystal.
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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

CEC is getting ready for 2018 general elections

By BEA CABRERA
REPORTER

The CNMI's general election is still in November next year but the Commonwealth Election Commission is already busy as early as now to ensure a smooth and orderly process.

Julita Villagomez, the commission's executive director, said they are currently updating their records.

"We transferred offices and we are making sure that everything is intact for the upcoming elections so that we will find any documentation easily. Our work depends on records and documents, that is why we want everything in order," said Villagomez.

Voter's registration is ongoing and it ends on Sept. 7, 2018, a total of 60 days before the 2018 general election. Villagomez said the commission started voter registration a week after the last election and it is ongoing.

"People think that after the election ends, our work also ends but it is not true. Our eyes shift immediately to the next election and that's what keeps us in our toes," Villagomez added.

According to the CEC website, the number of registered voters on Oct. 14, 2014, reached 17,986. As of May 13, 2017, the number was at 16,096.

BEA CABRERA
Julita Villagomez, executive director of the Commonwealth Election Commission, looks at the election schedule for next year.

"We receive cancellation from people, saying that they are registered elsewhere. After the last election, the commission also removed ineligible voters from the list for different reasons: death and when a person has been convicted with a felony. There are cases that the registered voter failed to vote for two consecutive elections," Villagomez explained.

To be eligible to vote, voters have to go to the commission's office to register if they are on island. If they are off island, voters must fill up a voter registration package or absentee ballot application on the CEC website, www.votecnmi.gov.mp.

Last year, the commission held hearings led by CEC administrative officer George Lloyd Hasselback regarding 85 dual voters, or with dual residency.

"We respect a person's fundamental right to vote, that's why there was adequate notice and opportunity to be heard. We conducted an administrative hearing by telephone and we had written decisions for all cases," Hasselback said.

Five out of the 85 were removed from the list of registered voters.

For a voter registration to be effective, CEC requires a valid copy of the birth certificate from the statistics office or from the clerk of court or a valid U.S. passport.

"There are no exceptions," Villagomez said.

For voter registration, the commission is open Monday to Friday (except holidays) from 8am to 4pm. People who are off island can register via http:www.votecnmi.gov.mp/.

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Defendant's request to appoint an expert in Carolinian culture OK'd

The Superior Court granted Wednesday last week the request of a rape suspect to have an expert in Carolinian culture at his trial.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho said the fee for the appointment of such an expert should not exceed $1,500. Any fees exceeding that needs prior court approval.

Joseph Seman Epina, 43, is facing charges for raping a 12-year-old girl.

The Office of the Attorney General charged him with sexual assault of a minor in the first degree, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. The alleged victim is a Carolinian.

Assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit, counsel for Epina, said the alleged victim has made certain statements that appear to be in conflict with Carolinian culture.

However, Nesbit said, in order to fully explore this theory, she needs to speak with an expert in the Carolinian culture.

"The assistance of an expert witness is necessary in order to fully explore the credibility and accuracy of statements made by the alleged victim," said Nesbit in Epina's ex parte motion for an expert in Carolinian culture.

Nesbit said an expert is necessary to fully understand the culture and effectively challenge the accuracy and reliability of the alleged victim's statements. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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‘Ex-HSEM chief, girlfriend brought beer to Rota for political event’

» Ex-DPS deputy commissioner also alleges that auditor discovered several air-conditioners missing at DPS

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Former Department of Public Safety deputy commissioner Ambrosio T. Ogumoro alleged that then-CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management special adviser James C. Deleon Guerrero chartered a plane to Rota and brought beer for a political event in February 2016.

Ogumoro said three persons, including a police sergeant, helped load the beer and joined Deleon Guerrero and DPS administration director Kaye Inos on that Rota trip.

When asked for comment, Deleon Guerrero said he has nothing further to add to the statements he made that appeared in *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Saipan Tribune is still trying to get comments from Inos.

Ogumoro said evidence for that Rota trip has been completed and can be found at HSEM and DPS.

He disclosed that the Office of the Public Auditor did an investigation for possible misuse of funds when Deleon Guerrero was also in charge of the DPS Grants Office and Real ID Program.

Ogumoro said that before Deleon Guerrero became the DPS commissioner, he was assigned in 2014 to assist DPS Motor Vehicle with a Real ID Program that was federally funded in the amount of $600,000.

Under the Real ID Program, he said, an auditor from the states came and discovered that several air-conditioners purchased could not be located.

Ogumoro said an OPA investigation was initiated.

“Why the investigation was halted and never completed is what we want to know,” said Ogumoro, stressing that governing offices are responsible to have accountabilities of all purchased assets, especially using federal monies.

Projects planned to increase landfill’s lifespan

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Speaking in separate interviews, Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan) and Public Works Secretary James Ada said they are working on several projects that would ease the problems at the dumpsite and increase its lifespan.

Igisomar said he would push for the recycling program and a proper solid waste management plan just like what the Republic of Palau is doing. “Recycling, that’s another subject matter that I’ve been working with DPW and [director] Peter Camacho.”

“With the solid waste, go explore what Palau is doing right with respect to recycling. How they are doing it? But I’m not there yet and we have not finalized any form of commitment or plan of action,” Igisomar added.

Igisomar chairs the Senate Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications Committee.

He said that his committee and DPW have often discussed recycling and other solid waste management programs. “We’re discussing how we can put up a recycling program that actually works…so we could minimize anything that goes into our landfill. It is an option and also a priority of DPW. I know this is something that Secretary Ada and director Camacho have been exploring heavily.”

Ada echoed Igisomar, saying his department has been working with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. on the waste-to-energy program. He is hoping the project would go through since it would help increase the Marpi landfill’s lifespan.

“We’re working with our team and meeting with CUC to negotiate with the project. The lifespan of the cells at the landfills would increase because of this waste-to-energy project. That is one that we need here,” said Ada.

He added Saipan and Tinian would need additional energy sources once all hotels and other establishment that are in development and construction stages begin their respective operations.

“ [Imperial Pacific Resort] has not opened yet. We also have the Honest Profit and Ocean Vista projects. There’s also impending trash from Tinian once Alter City and other projects begin there,” Ada said.

He said that oil and gas generated from the waste-to-energy project could be used for generators and other vehicles. “We’re going to meet more with CUC. We’re prepared already and we wanted to issue a contract.”

“The lifespan of the landfill needs to increase. That is one of the issues that we’re confronting and it has given us headaches,” added Ada.

The waste-to-energy program involves high quality recycling and the use of residual waste for efficient and clean source of energy.

Landfill update

Ada said they are also hoping the Legislature would heed their request for $5.5 million so they could begin lining Cell 3 of the Marpi landfill. “Cell 1 is at maximum capacity and we’re already using its slope. We have already lined Cell 2.

“That’s why we briefed the Legislature [last week] on why we need the $5.5 million and that is to line Cell 3. We need the funds since the project is not cheap.”

He added the trash and debris left after the onslaught of Typhoon Soudelor on Saipan on Aug. 2, 2015, coupled by the recent construction activities would fill up the space of cells 1 and 2.

“That is why it is important for us to start lining Cell 3. Cell 1 is reaching its cap and we’re utilizing Cell 2,” said Ada.

“The $5.5 million would help alleviate the landfill problem. I thank the Senate for hearing our concerns, and also Gov. [Ralph DLG] Torres and Lt. Gov. [Victor B.] Hocog. They [governor and lieutenant governor] are very much aware of the landfill issue.”

They also meet with the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality and the operator of the landfill almost everyday. “We’re working diligently to rectify all administrative orders that were issued to DPW and cited by BECQ on the landfill, and also foir the Tinian and Rota dumpsites.”

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NMC students to participate in NASA program

Northern Marianas College School of Education's Teacher Preparatory Program was recently selected to participate in the National Aeronautics Space Administration's Minority University Research Education Project or MUREP.

This is the third year MUREP's Office of Education has offered a summer program to help ensure that NASA can meet future workforce needs in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) by strengthening involvement with higher education institutions to include participation of underrepresented and underserved students.

The NMC students who will be participating in the program include Myron Mendoza (Elementary Education concentration), Edinna Cepeda (Elementary Education concentration), Jason Atrero (Special Education concentration) and Mele'Ani Cepeda (Elementary Education concentration). Their NASA team adviser is NMC School of Education's instructor Rosaline Cepeda.

"We are extremely proud that NMC was selected to be part of this prestigious NASA program," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. "I also look forward to our students' participation as they expand their STEM training with NASA scientists and other students from around the country."

In a Skype conference that included NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory Summer Program facilitators Dr. Ota Lutz, NASA senior education specialist for Elementary and Secondary Education; Dr. Lyle Tavernier, NASA education technological specialist; Dr. David Seidel, JPL executive educational director; Northern Marianas College SOE instructor Rosaline Cepeda and NMC SOE director Charlotte Cepeda, it was known that NMC-SOE's NASA team will be the first representatives from a far-western Pacific location.

Discussions during the video conference also included background information on the CNMI to prepare culturally sensitive experiences and the School of Education's Teacher Preparatory Program. They also discussed climate change and its effects in the CNMI, coral bleaching, freshwater supply and needs, as well as the identification of possible topics to allow for meaningful connections to enhance readiness for future STEM teachers. ***(NMC)***

MVA

From Page 1

ing a cellphone, $900 cash, three passports, and two credit cards.

The robbery happened near Banzai Cliff in Marpi.

An earlier case, which reportedly occurred at the Bird Island Lookout, tells of two women sightseeing aboard a rented vehicle. One of two male suspects grabbed the woman's cellphone before fleeing by car.

Prior to the Bird Island incident, another incident occurred at the Grotto. Five tourists were reportedly sightseeing and had parked their SUV when about three to four male suspects, one armed with a machete, robbed them of $100, credit cards, and cellphones, among other items, before fleeing by car.

Due to the spike in criminal activity in the Marpi area, MVA has issued a statement saying that Marpi, one of the islands' iconic sights, may be a safety hazard "if [tourists] visit alone."

MVA has been paying for security in Marpi, specifically at Banzai Cliff, Grotto, Bird Island, and Suicide Cliff from 8am to 5pm. Since the incident last Sunday, Concepcion has sent a request to the security company to "beef up security in order to deter criminal activity [in the area]."

Security personnel document all the vehicles that go in and out these areas, including the number of tourists.

Statistics from MVA suggests that 31,810 tourists visited the Banzai Cliff in March while the Bird Island Lookout had about 33,000 tourists.

"We want to reassure our visitors that the CNMI is safe," Concepcion said.

He also praised the swift arrest made in the Mother's Day incident and expressed his gratitude to the Department of Public Safety. According to Concepcion, he hopes that other cases may be solved as soon as possible as well.

"We want to thank the people over at DPS for quickly finding the perpetrators involved. We hope that they do further investigations so that the other crimes that were just recently committed besides the one on Mother's Day are also solved," he said.

"It sends a bad image to our source countries When these types of incidents happen, they go viral. Once this hits social media…we are very concerned about that because once it is out there in cyberspace, there is just no way of controlling it. So we want to ask for everybody's active involvement in these kinds of situations. [If you] know, see, or hear anything, please speak up. It is important that crimes like these are prevented. If they do happen, it is more important that the [suspects] get caught and are apprehended," he added.

MVA hopes that further investigations have been made. One common denominator for the robberies is the involvement of cars as getaway vehicles. This suggests that there is a driver waiting for the robbers to return. Driving the getaway vehicle makes the driver an accessory to the crime, which is criminal offense and is also subject to penalties.

Concepcion stressed that the CNMI solely relies on the tourism industry, an industry extremely sensitive to security issues.

"Without these tourists coming in, there really is no economy to speak of," he said. "I am hopeful that this is a rare occurrence and that there will be less and less crimes going on. We are continuing with our daily monitoring of a security presence at the sites."

"There has to be a sense of safety and security here because it sends a negative image of the CNMI," added Concepcion.

DPS

From Page 1

the fundraiser raised around $5,000 and the fund will go directly to the DPS Employees Association Inc., a non-profit organization that the Public Safety Awareness Month Committee has partnered up with.

Some of the upcoming events are a fishing derby, the lifejacket day, the peace officers memorial ceremony, and many more throughout the month.

According to Guerrero, the jailhouse fundraiser is basically a mock jail sentence. In order to get someone arrested, you would have to pay a fee of $25. Once a person is arrested, the person faces a judge and the judge proceeds to inform the arrestee of their bail amount.

According to McQuy, the minimum bounty was $25. The arrestees had to match the bounty in order to bail themselves out.

Over 30 arrests were made yesterday.

The event was geared toward police officers that wanted to enjoy the company of their colleagues, and anyone who was interested in supporting the fundraiser while enjoying a good laugh.

The first jailhouse fundraiser was started in 2010. The event has become an annual event to celebrate Police Month.

$20K

From Page 1

ted grabbing the backpack of a female tourist and running to a white Hyundai Accent.

The victim, who ran after Blas and got dragged by the Hyundai vehicle, Quichan Yang, had several abrasions on her forearms, left hand, left knuckles, wrists, elbows, and right knee.

Police investigation showed that Yang and her two sisters had parked their rented car, a pink Mustang, along the shoulder of the Banzai Cliff Road to take some photographs. While taking photos, a white car parked by a tree about 20 feet behind the Mustang. A man, later identified as Blas, approached the passenger side of the Mustang and asked Yang if they needed help taking pictures. Blas then reached into the window of the Mustang and grabbed Yang's backpack that she had placed on her lap. Yang got out from the Mustang and held on to her backpack. As they struggled, Blas pulled the backpack, dragging Yang to the passenger side of his white getaway car. While Yang was still holding on to her backpack, the unidentified driver of the car accelerated the car. As a result, Yang was dragged, forcing her to release the backpack.

Another tourist on a car that had stopped was able to take a video of the white car as it was fleeing the scene. The footage led to the identification of the getaway vehicle as a white Hyundai Accent with license plate ACV-568. Police learned that the car belongs to BF Rental in As Lito, and was rented by a Monissalyn Iguel Blas on Friday.

On Sunday night, police saw the Hyundai Accent arrive at the parking lot of BF Rental and Monissalyn Blas got down to return the car. Monissalyn Blas then got inside a gray Mazda car, which headed north along Martinez Road.

A police officer followed the Mazda car, which parked behind the Lucky D Supermarket in Dandan. The officer approached the car, where he found Monissalyn Blas in the front passenger seat, while her boyfriend, Bo Yamada, and defendant Alvin Blas in the back seat. The officer escorted Alvin Blas to the police station for an interview. Police impounded the Hyundai Accent for processing.

The report did not mention whether Monissalyn Blas and Yamada are also suspects in the robbery. It was also not indicated whether Monissalyn Blas and Alvin Blas are siblings.

CUC

From Page 1

to fire them.

Torres, on Thursday, asked for the resignation of the board members and all of them complied, submitting their respective notices on Monday.

Dela Cruz said that Torres made the right decision. "As the House PUC [committee] chair, I strongly feel that Gov. Torres made the right decision in asking the board members of CUC for their resignations."

He believes that there won't be any power vacuum at CUC since it would still function under the leadership of executive director Gary Camacho and his entire management staff.

"I don't believe there'll be any repercussions on the governor's decision. I trust that the governor will expeditiously begin the process of appointing individuals for the CUC board. As you know, CUC was without a board prior to this set of board members who have recently resigned," said Dela Cruz.

CUC board chair Adelina C. Roberto, vice chair Eric C. San Nicolas, secretary Albert A. Taitano, treasurer Joseph T. Torres, and David J. Sablan were gubernatorial appointees. Ignacio L. Perez occupies the slot reserved for the Commonwealth Development Authority.

Dela Cruz, however, wished for Torres to retain Sablan. "Gov. Torres can still re-appoint Mr. Dave Sablan if he wishes to in the near future. That is his prerogative.

He also added that Torres must appoint new Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission members. "I also believe that the governor is in the process of appointing [CPUC] members. The [CNMI] needs this regulatory body to keep our utilities, telecommunications, and cable companies in check with regards to rates."

Ethics complaint

Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) filed yesterday an ethics complaint against Sen. James Espaldon of Guam. He addressed the letter to 34th Guam Legislature Speaker Benjamin J. F. Cruz.

Propst, in the letter said, that Espaldon's actions have left him with no choice but to file the ethics complaint. "It is unfortunate that I am compelled to file an ethics complaint regarding one of your colleagues."

"But as a representative of the people of the CNMI and as a CUC ratepayer, Sen. Espaldon's actions leave me with no other choice. Aside from submitting a formal ethics complaint, it is my hope that you and your senators will ask the many questions that have yet to be answered."

He said Espaldon's role and relationship with General Pacific Services Marianas Inc., which had been awarded CUC contract to procure an engine, is at the core of his ethics complaint.

Propst added that the "highly controversial [request for quotation] submitted and nearly awarded to GPSM" launched several investigations by the Senate Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications; House Committee on Public Utilities and Communications; Office of the Attorney General; and the Office of the Public Auditor.

The project, RFQ-PG17-001, was later canceled.

"The findings and conclusions from these investigations led to CNMI Gov. Ralph DLG Torres calling for the resignation of five CUC board members on Friday," said Propst.

"GPSM president Amelia Toelkes claimed in her company's RFQ submission that GPM and Fairbanks Morse were a team and that they had 'an established relationship with multiple successful projects.'"

He added this were also the same claims made by Espaldon to the CUC management and CUC legal counsel Jim Sirok. The Guam senator acted as chief negotiator for GPSM's RFQ.

Propst said it was later revealed that Fairbanks Morse does not have any form of partnership with GPSM as stated by FM Power Generation segment manager David McCallum where he clarified that they were not a signatory to the agreement between GPSM and CUC.

"Yet GPSM's RFQ submittal uses a joint letterhead with Fairbanks Morse and even has David McCallum's signature at the bottom of the page, right next to the signature of GPSM president Amelia Toelkes," Propst said.

SIS' Cerinn Hwang wins National Merit Scholarship

Saipan International School's Cerinn Hwang has won a National Merit Scholarship, the only awardee from the Northern Mariana Islands.

The National Merit Scholarship Corp. announced this year's National Merit $2,500 Scholarship winners on May 10, 2017.

The 2,500 Merit Scholar designees were chosen from a talent pool of more than 15,000 outstanding finalists in the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program.

National Merit $2,500 Scholarship winners are the finalists in each state judged to have the strongest combination of accomplishments, skills, and potential for success in rigorous college studies. The number of winners named in each state is proportional to the state's percentage of the nation's graduating high school seniors.

Hwang

These scholars were selected by a committee of college admissions officers and high school counselors, who appraised a substantial amount of information submitted by both the finalists and their high schools: the academic record, including difficulty level of subjects studied and grades earned; scores from two standardized tests; contributions and leadership in school and community activities; an essay written by the finalist; and a recommendation written by a high school official.

This year's National Merit Scholarship Program began in October 2015 when over 1.6 million juniors in more than 22,000 high schools took the preliminary SAT, which served as an initial screen of program entrants. Last fall, the highest-scoring participants in each state, representing less than 1 percent of the nation's high school seniors, were named semifinalists on a state-representational basis. Only these 16,000 semifinalists had an opportunity to continue in the competition. From the semifinalist group, some 15,000 students met the very high academic standards and other requirements to advance to the finalist level of the competition. By the conclusion of the 2017 program, about 7,500 finalists will have earned the "Merit Scholar" title and received a total of over $32 million in college scholarships.

NMSC, a not-for-profit corporation that operates without government assistance, was founded in 1955 specifically to conduct the National Merit Scholarship Program. The majority of scholarships offered each year are underwritten by approximately 420 independent corporate and college sponsors that share NMSC's goals of honoring scholastically talented youth and encouraging academic excellence at all levels of education. ***(PR)***

MHS senior, 3 SSHS students win 9th Circuit Civics Contest for NMI District

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona and Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy pose for a group photo with five of the eight winners in the 2017 Ninth Circuit Civics Contest for the NMI District during the awarding ceremony in federal court on Monday afternoon. From left are Emma Timmons, Olivia Hirsh, Kennedy, Manglona, Guillermo Faller, Stephen Carino, and Jae Yeon Lee.

A senior from Marianas High School won the top place in the essay category of the 2017 Ninth Circuit Civics Contest for the U.S. District Court for the NMI, while three students from Saipan Southern High School won the contest's video category.

Olivia Hirsh, 17, of MHS, grabbed the first place in the essay category.

Jae Yeon Lee, 18, Stephen Carino, 17, and Guillermo Faller, 17, all of SSHS, won first place in the video category.

Hirsh said she feels excited and happy "because all the hard work came to fruition." Hirsh disclosed that it took her a month to complete her essay.

As a member of the MHS mock trial team, Hirsh heard about the contest from their group and saw the fliers.

Hirsh was adjudged best defense attorney along with a student from Grace Christian Academy during last year's NMI High School Mock Trial.

In 2013, Hirsh and a fellow freshman at MHS topped the senior-level division of the Northern Marianas Humanities Council's 10 Annual Valentine N. Sengebau Poetry Competition.

Lee, Carino, and Faller said they completed their video after eight hours at a restaurant.

In the essay category, Stephen Carino of SSHS grabbed second place; Giu Hur of Saipan International School won third place, Emma Timmons of MHS got fourth place, and Jacqueline Doctor of Mt. Carmel School received fifth place.

The pieces of top three winners in both categories will compete in the Circuit-wide contest.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy, and District Court law clerk Richard Miller awarded the prizes during the announcement of the winners on Monday afternoon.

The first place winners in the essay and video categories each received $100 and certificates. The second place prize was $75 and a certificate, third place was $50 and a certificate, fourth place was $30 and certificate, and fifth place was $20 and a certificate.

A total of 30 students joined the essay contest, while one submitted in the video category. Seven high schools in the CNMI participated in the contest.

Manglona said the cash prizes for the Circuit-wide essay and video contest winners are $2,000 for first place, $1,000 for second place, and $500 for third place. This year's topic is to consider and describe the relevance of the Japanese internment today as the nation combats terrorism.

The top three finishers in the essay and video competitions at the district level will go on to compete in the Ninth Circuit-wide contest.

The contest is open to high school students and homeschooled students of equivalent grade status.

The contest is organized by the Ninth Circuit Courts and Community Committee and cosponsored by the federal courts within the Ninth Circuit. Circuit contest winners will be announced in June.

Last year, Terrence Blanca of SSHS won the top prize in the essay category at the NMI District level.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-17-030

MAUI SHAFT WELLS REHABILITATION PROJECT, SAIPAN, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms to develop the method and perform the construction work to remove the cave in soil material in the Maui 4 Shaft Well tunnel and rehabilitate the existing buildings, platforms, shaft, electrical components, mechanical lift system and all other items listed in the scope of work for the Maui 1 and 4 shaft wells. Payment is only for the items completely installed and accepted by CUC. The duration of the contract is **375 calendar days** from date of award.

This project is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from the above mentioned funding agencies.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be conducted at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan on **May 25, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Immediately after the conference, a Site Visit to the Maui Shaft Wells facility will be conducted. Proposers shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting the proposal.

One (1) original and four (4) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-17-030 –Maui Shaft Wells Rehabilitation Project"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than June 12, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 30, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr. CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to LCDR Travis Spaeth P.E. CUC Water-Wastewater Senior Engineer via email address travis.spaeth@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address Marcela.Tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, Jr.
Purchasing Administrator

Man allegedly beats up wife, cuts her hair, damages cars

A 57-year-old man allegedly beat up his common-law wife who has a disability, cut her hair, and damaged door louvers, two vehicles, and other items at their home in Kagman 3 last Saturday night.

Police said the victim had bruises on her mouth and inner lower lip when the suspect, Simeon Selepeo Fitial, allegedly grabbed her by the mouth.

Fitial was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, assault, disturbing the peace, and criminal mischief. His bail was set Monday at $20,000 cash. Preliminary hearing will be on May 25 at 9am.

A police officer responded to the couple's house on Saturday at 10:08pm and saw damage on the windows of a van that was parked next to the house's door. Fitial allegedly admitted causing the damage. The officer handcuffed Fitial and brought him to the patrol car.

The officer, who called for medics and interviewed the injured victim, later saw damage to the front and rear windshields of another vehicle that was parked at the eastern part of the house.

The officer learned that Fitial damaged an Acer computer and over 30 louvers in two bedrooms, kitchen, and bathroom.

The victim told police that she kicked out Fitial from her house on Friday as he has been beating her up. As she was getting ready to sleep on Saturday night, Fitial, who was yelling outside, threatened to kill her. Fitial managed to forcibly open the back door and, once inside, broke several items and louvers.

The victim shouted for help from neighbors. She tried to use the landline to call police, but Fitial allegedly cut the phone line.

Fitial allegedly took scissors from a drawer, grabbed the victim by her mouth, punched her stomach, and started cutting her hair. Fitial threatened to make her bald. Afraid for her life, she kept still.

She asked for water because her heart was beating fast, but instead he poured a cup of water on her face twice.

Fitial then tried to exit the back door of the house when a police officer arrived. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

MVA joins Guam military travel fairs

The Marianas Visitors Authority was in Guam this month for in-person marketing targeting military personnel, their families, and the public.

The 12th Annual Joint Military Travel Fairs were conducted and organized by the Morale Welfare and Recreation unit on Guam's two military bases.

The first travel fair was held on May 3, 2017, at the Sunrise Convention on Andersen Air Force Base, with an estimated 900 attendees. The second fair was held on May 4 at the Top O' the Mar on Nimitz Hill, Guam, with approximately 600 attendees.

MVA

The 12th Annual Joint Military Travel Fair on May 4, 2017, at Top O' the Mar in Guam gives the Marianas Visitors Authority and other regional state tourism bureaus the opportunity to reach military families.

"In addition to the year-round print advertising we conduct via the military magazines and newspapers in Guam, the MVA's participation in the annual military travel fairs is our best opportunity to meet face-to-face with military personnel and their families stationed there," said MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "In particular, we shared maps, printed collaterals and promotional materials from our tourism partners on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan."

In partnership again this year with PDI and with new partner Imperial Pacific, the MVA operated a promotional booth and distributed information about Saipan, Tinian, and Rota at both events. Calls on travel agents and dive shops were also made while the delegation was in Guam. ***(MVA)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NMC offices closed today, May 17, 2017

Northern Marianas College employees will be participating in professional development activities today, May 17, 2017, on campus. All NMC offices will be closed on this day to ensure maximum employee participation. For any campus emergency, contact NMC Security at 234-5498 ext. 1911. For more information about upcoming events, visit www.marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

Military training at Farallon de Medinilla

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla on May 17 from 7am to 6pm. The public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear of the areas during the dates and times indicated. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 12-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. ***(PR)***

Notice to Prior Service Trust Fund beneficiaries

This notice applies to the Prior Service Trust Fund beneficiaries who are having their monthly benefit checks directly deposited to their account at Bank of Guam. Effective June 1, 2017, Bank of Guam will no longer perform this service for you. In the interim, until PSTF can establish an automatic deposit clearing, PSTF will be mailing your benefit check to your mailing address on file. Contact the PSTF Administration Office at telephone number 322-9753 to confirm your current mailing address by June 1, 2017. The PSTF office is open on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8am to noon and from 1pm to 5pm. ***(PR)***

VA benefits counselor visiting Saipan

The U.S. Department of Veterans benefits administration will be visiting Saipan. A VA benefits counselor will be at the Saipan VA Outreach Clinic on May 24, 2017, from 9:30am to 3:30pm to answer benefits questions, and assist with the claim process. The Saipan VA Outreach Clinic is located at the MH II Bldg., Suite 206, Marina Heights Business Park in Garapan. To request an appointment, contact Ruth Coleman at 322-0035. ***(PR)***

Register now for Chamber's Corporate Challenge

The 17th Annual Corporate Challenge will be held on May 28, 2017, at the Minatchom Atdao Pavilion in Susupe. The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is inviting Chamber member businesses to join in the competition to win the title of Corporate Challenge champions. The Chamber is now accepting company team registrations. Space is limited to the first registered teams. The deadline for registration will be on Friday, May 19, 2017, at 5pm. To register now, or for more information, call 234-7150 or e-mail administrator@saipanchamber.com for more information or visit www.saipanchamber.com. ***(PR)***

Call for historical papers

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council, University of Guam, Northern Marianas College, and Guampedia are calling for papers for the 3rd Marianas History Conference. The conference will be held on Saipan on Sept. 1-3, 2017, at a venue to be announced later. The deadline for abstracts is April 28, 2017. Conference presenters will be allotted 20 minutes to present. For more information about the conference, contact council staff at 235-4785 or visit the council's website at: www.northernmarianashumanities.org. ***(PR)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP17-DCCA/HPO-125
SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 16, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"COMMUNICATIONS, TECHNOLOGY, & INTERNET READINESS PROJECTS A PROJECT UNDER THE DCCA, HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE"

THE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, CAPITOL HILL, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, ASCENCION DRIVE, SAIPAN, MP 96950, DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS.

ALL INQUIRIRES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO MS. MERTIE KANI, DIRECTOR OF HPO AT mtkani.cnmihpo@gmail.com AND MR. JAMES R. PRUITT, STAFF ARCHAEIOLOGIST AT jpruitt.cnmihpo@gmail.com NO LATER THAN **4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, JUNE 05, 2017.**

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS NMIAC 70-30.3 – 725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ HERMAN SABLAN
DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP17-DCCA/HPO-126
SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 16, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PREPARATION OF A NEW CNMI STATEWIDE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN: FY2017 – FY2022, A PROJECT UNDER THE DCCA, HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE"

THE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, CAPITOL HILL, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, ASCENCION DRIVE, SAIPAN, MP 96950, DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS.

ALL INQUIRIRES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO MS. MERTIE KANI, DIRECTOR OF HPO AT mtkani.cnmihpo@gmail.com AND MR. JAMES R. PRUITT, STAFF ARCHAEIOLOGIST AT jpruitt.cnmihpo@gmail.com NO LATER THAN **4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, JUNE 05, 2017.**

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS NMIAC 70-30.3 – 725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ HERMAN SABLAN
DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP17-DCCA/HPO-127
SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 16, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"UPDATE & MAINTAIN CNMI HPO WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT A PROJECT UNDER THE DCCA, HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE"

THE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, CAPITOL HILL, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, ASCENCION DRIVE, SAIPAN, MP 96950, DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS.

ALL INQUIRIRES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO MS. MERTIE KANI, DIRECTOR OF HPO AT mtkani.cnmihpo@gmail.com AND MR. JAMES R. PRUITT, STAFF ARCHAEIOLOGIST AT jpruitt.cnmihpo@gmail.com NO LATER THAN **4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, JUNE 05, 2017.**

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS NMIAC 70-30.3 – 725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ HERMAN SABLAN
DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP17-DCCA/HPO-128
SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 16, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY ASESSMENT PHASE 2 A PROJECT UNDER THE DCCA, HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE"

THE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, CAPITOL HILL, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, ASCENCION DRIVE, SAIPAN, MP 96950, DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS.

ALL INQUIRIRES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO MS. MERTIE KANI, DIRECTOR OF HPO AT mtkani.cnmihpo@gmail.com AND MR. JAMES R. PRUITT, STAFF ARCHAEIOLOGIST AT jpruitt.cnmihpo@gmail.com NO LATER THAN **4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, JUNE 05, 2017.**

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS NMIAC 70-30.3 – 725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ HERMAN SABLAN
DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP17-DCCA/HPO-137
SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 16, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"CNMI HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY SYSTEM, PHASE II A PROJECT UNDER THE DCCA, HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE"

THE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, CAPITOL HILL, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, ASCENCION DRIVE, SAIPAN, MP 96950, DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS.

ALL INQUIRIRES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO MS. MERTIE KANI, DIRECTOR OF HPO AT mtkani.cnmihpo@gmail.com AND MR. JAMES R. PRUITT, STAFF ARCHAEIOLOGIST AT jpruitt.cnmihpo@gmail.com NO LATER THAN **4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, JUNE 05, 2017.**

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS NMIAC 70-30.3 – 725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ HERMAN SABLAN
DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP17-DCCA/HPO-138
SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 16, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"INTERPRETIVE SIGNS FOR SELECTED SIGNIFICANT SITES IN THE CNMI A PROJECT UNDER THE DCCA, HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE"

THE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, CAPITOL HILL, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, ASCENCION DRIVE, SAIPAN, MP 96950, DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS.

ALL INQUIRIRES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO MS. MERTIE KANI, DIRECTOR OF HPO AT mtkani.cnmihpo@gmail.com AND MR. JAMES R. PRUITT, STAFF ARCHAEIOLOGIST AT jpruitt.cnmihpo@gmail.com NO LATER THAN **4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, JUNE 05, 2017.**

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS NMIAC 70-30.3 – 725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ HERMAN SABLAN
DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

MAYOR FOR THE DAY

Eden Liwag, seated, takes the place of Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, standing center, on Tuesday in celebration of Older American Month. Liwag was given the privilege to perform all the marriage ceremonies for the day. Liwag was also taken to the field so that she could see the field operators and the work that they do to beautify the community.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Power outage tomorrow

There will be a scheduled power interruption tomorrow, May 18, from 3:30pm to 6pm.

The purpose of the power interruption is to de-energize the primary lines to allow Commonwealth Utilities Corp. line crew to safely replace a wooden power pole with concrete poles in front of the former Chalan Kanoa Joeten store. This is part of an ongoing hazard mitigation program to strengthen and harden the integrity of the power distribution system throughout Saipan.

Areas to be affected include Chalan Kanoa (intersection of Texas Road and Chalan Tun Joaquin Doi, Segundo St., Chalan Kanoa Dr., Gregorio Ave, Isidro Ave., Hilarion St).

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the affected areas. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor CUC's Facebook page for the latest updates. ***(CUC)***

Labor warns company for lack of docs

The CNMI Department of Labor has warned a company for failing to submit requirements in its request for certification of compliance.

Last Feb. 13, Labor's Job Placement section denied Misa Enterprises, Inc. on three grounds—failure to post a job vacancy announcement on the department's website for a job filled by a CW-1 employee, failure to submit a workforce plan for 2015 and 2016, and failure to submit a quarterly total workforce listings for four quarters in 2015 and two quarters in 2016.

Labor eventually cleared Misa Enterprises of the first charge and its president Misako Kamata promised that the company would be more diligent in submitting reports. She admitted they did not submit a work plan in 2015 and an incomplete work plan in 2016.

Kamata also said that the certification of good standing from Labor is needed for the company's business to remain viable.

Job Placement then recommended reversing its denial and issuing only a warning to Misa Enterprises.

Labor hearing officer Jerry Cody said Misa Enterprises should be given an opportunity to demonstrate its compliance with Labor regulations and in the meantime shall be issued a warning. ***(Bea Cabrera)***

GMS places 5th in ACB

Five students of Green Meadow School competed in the Elementary Academic Challenge Bowl last April 22, 2017 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Hall and landed in fifth place after accumulating 340 points after three rounds.

The elementary ACB is for 4th to 5th grade students. Contestants come from both private and public schools. It involves three rounds: easy, average, and difficult round.

Fifth graders Areeza Gaile Anda, Jeremiah Kristan Alfred, Nicole Danielle Sacramento, and fourth graders Aaro Solana Hunter and Chealzka Navarro were the GMS participants.

The participants were coached by Liz Espiritu (History), Liza Quiambao (Math), Meliza Umali (Science), Virgie Ogerio and Rosalie Habijan (Language Arts), and Jason Aia (Current Events).

Milagros Songcuan, GMS president and principal, thanked the teachers, coaches, and parents who worked hard to help prepare the students. She also extended her gratitude to the students for their determination to excel. ***(PR)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-TDLNR-141-CIF TINIAN

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 5, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF A UTILITY TRACTOR WITH 3 ATTACHMENTS FOR TINIAN DEPARTMENT OF LANDS & NATURAL RESOURCES"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, CAPITOL HILL, **LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, ASCENCION DRIVE, SAIPAN**, MP 96950, DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS NMIAC 70-30.3 – 725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JOEY P. SAN NICOLAS, MAYOR OF TINIAN & AGUIGUAN
/S/ GUILLERMO C. BORJA, RESIDENT DEPARTMENT HEAD, TDLNR
/S/ HERMAN SABLAN, DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

VEHICLE FOR SALE

1998 NISSAN FRONTIER TRUCK
REGULAR CAB
COLOR BLUE

For more information, please contact
Express Financial through its counsel,
Robert T. Torres at (670) 234-7859

Bids will be closed on
WEDNESDAY, May 24, 2017 AT 5:00PM

Express Financial reserves
the right to reject any or all offers

Vehicle bid form can be obtained from

Express Financial
through Counsel Robert T. Torres
Attorney at Law
Chalan Kiya
P.O. Box 503758 CK
Saipan, MP 96950

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.crm.gov.mp

Frank M. Rabauliman, Administrator
Frances A. Castro, Director

PUBLIC NOTICE

From the COMMONWEALTH OF THE NOTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM of the CNMI'S DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

DATE: May 17, 2017

NOTICE: The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Division of Coastal Resource Management (DCRM) is currently updating regulations found in NMIAC 15-10.

A document reflecting all proposed changes are tracked in "track changes" and available online at: http://ow.ly/cNNa30bKPVu

Changes proposed since the last revision are available at: http://ow.ly/jQot30bKQ1Z

Comments on proposed changes can be submitted to the Division of Coastal Resource Management at erinderrington@becq.gov.mp or as hard copies to the Permitting Section.

Draft policies to support regulation implementation are also available for review as follows:

- 2017 Draft Application of the Mitigation Hierarchy - http://ow.ly/DByw30bKUvs
- 2017 Draft - Wetland Buffers in CNMI - http://ow.ly/BhGj30bKXx3
- 2017 Draft - Wetland Delineation Report Content Guidance - http://ow.ly/o9ma30bKXAO

Public meetings will be scheduled on Saipan on June 21, on Tinian, June 22, and on Rota, June 23, with times and locations to be published and publicly noticed subsequently. These meetings will aim to support review substantive changes, answer questions, and solicit comments. Presentations to stakeholder groups may also be scheduled upon request.

Comments must be received by June 30, 2017 in order for them to be incorporated into a final draft of updated revisions. A final notice and comment period will be announced when final changes are proposed for adoption. We welcome your feedback and thank you for your consideration.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-YAO-142

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 16, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF A 4X4 (4 FULL DOORS) PICK UP TRUCK FOR THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, YOUTH AFFAIRS OFFICE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, CAPITOL HILL, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, ASCENCION DRIVE, SAIPAN, MP 96950, DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS NMIAC 70-30.3 – 725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS; OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

S/ SHELANE BORJA, SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS
/S/ HERMAN SABLAN, DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP17-BECQ/DCRM-143

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 16, 2017 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"CNMI BETTER BUILDING PRACTICES – TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT & IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND COASTAL QUALITY, DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT"

THE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK IS AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **MAY 17, 2017** FROM BECQ/DCRM OFFICE OR BY EMAIL REQUEST TO EMILY NORTHROP **emilynorthrop@becq.gov.mp** QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP CAN BE EMAILED TO emilynorthrop@becq.gov.mp NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, **JUNE 06, 2017**.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS NMIAC 70-30.3 – 725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN, ADMINISTRATOR OF BECQ
/S/ HERMAN SABLAN, DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

Korean celebs in the Marianas generate online buzz

Korean celebrities Jaehoon Lee and Jiyoon Park are generating quite a buzz in their roles as Marianas tourism ambassadors, recently wrapping up music video filming and fashion photo shooting projects on Saipan, Tinian and Rota with the Marianas Visitors Authority.

Park visited Saipan and Tinian last month on a photo shoot for her fashion brand DICOTE with celebrity model Hyejung Hwang Bo. The photo shoot was conducted at major attraction points on Saipan and Tinian while they stayed at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort. During Park's visit to the Marianas, she uploaded 15 related Instagram posts, each receiving more than 5,000 "Likes," mainly from women in their 20s and 30s.

Lee and his production staff filmed a music video for his new album while on Saipan and Rota.

"This was the crew's first visit to Rota, and they all loved it, especially scuba-diving at Coral Garden and Rota Hole, eating local food including coconut crabs and raw lobsters prepared by Rota Resort and Country Club," said MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman.

MVA

Korean music artist and Marianas tourism ambassador Jaehoon Lee and his production team take a break while filming a music video on Rota in the Marianas in April 2017.

"They had back road driving experiences to As Matmos and Pona Point to capture the beautifully preserved nature of the island. Many of Lee's fans have showed great interest in traveling to the Marianas as he has uploaded Marianas-related posts on his personal Instagram and replied to many of his fans' comments and inquiries on each of his posts."

Lee was accompanied by Korean celebrity singer Jung Lee, who said he especially enjoyed shopping at Tribe Marianas, visiting the Garapan Street Market, having a barbecue at Paupau Beach, and scuba-diving on Rota.

Photos and video footage during the tours will be utilized in both online and offline marketing programs, especially through MVA's official social media channels in Korea, including Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and other travel related social media platforms in Korea.

During their visit, the ambassadors also attended a dinner hosted by the MVA. Discounted lodging was provided by Laolao Bay Golf & Resort and Rota Resort & Country Club. ***(MVA)***

MVA

Marianas tourism ambassador Jaehoon Lee at As Matmos on Rota in the Marianas, where he filmed a music video in April 2017.

MVA

Marianas tourism ambassador Jiyoon Park visits House of Taga while on a photo shoot for her fashion brand DICOTE on the island of Tinian in the Marianas in April 2017.

MVA

Korean model Hwang Bo on a photo shoot on Saipan in the Marianas in April 2017.

MVA

Korean model Hwang Bo on a photo shoot at award-winning Managaha in the Marianas in April 2017.

Marianas Visitors Authority welcomes Marianas tourism ambassadors Jiyoon Park and Jaehoon Lee during their April 2017 photo and film shoots on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. From left is singer Jung Lee, Park, MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion, model Hwang Bo, MVA board member K.J. Kim, and Lee.

MVA

DPS Rota to conduct seatbelt, child seat checkpoints

The Department of Public Safety's Rota Highway Patrol Section will be conducting seatbelt/child seat restraint checkpoints.

On Monday, May 22, the first setup is from 6am to 7:15am at the road by San Isidro Church. The second setup is from 6pm to 7:15pm, San Francisco highway by the Pinatang Park.

On Wednesday, May 24, the first setup is from 6am to 7:15am by the San Francisco Highway at the Sinapalo 3 Park. The second setup from 6pm to 7:15pm will be at the San Francisco highway Uyulan area.

On Thursday, May 26, the first setup is from 6am to 7:15am, San Francisco highway Igua area. The second setup is from 6pm to 7:15pm, San Francisco highway Guata area.

On May 29, 2017, the first setup is from 6am to 7:15am at the San Francisco highway Tatgua area. The second setup is from 6pm to 7:15pm, along the San Francisco highway Tatachog area.

On June 2, the first setup is from 6am to 7:15am at the San Francisco highway Tatachog area. The second setup from 6pm to 7:15pm is at the San Francisco highway Sonton area.

On June 3, the first setup is from 6am to 7:15am along the San Francisco highway Lotgan area. The second setup from 6pm to 7:15pm will be along the San Francisco highway by Teteto beach.

Each checkpoint will last at least 75 minutes (1 hour and 15 minutes). This activity is part of the department's effort to deter, detect and to ensure that all passengers are wearing proper restraining devices, seatbelts or car seats.

In addition, traffic and patrol officers will be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrols, aggressive driver interdictions, and laser (speed detection) enforcement. ***(PR)***

Child seat checkpoints on Saipan

The Department of Public Safety's Highway Patrol will be conducting occupant protection and child restraint on May 24, 27, and 30.

On May 24, Wednesday, the first checkpoint will be from Beach Road, Garapan to Beach Road, Chalan Kanoa from 7am to 9am.

The second checkpoint will be from Chalan Pale Arnold, Puerto Rico to Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Laulau from 10am to 12pm.

On May 27, Saturday, the first checkpoint will be from Beach Road, Garapan to Beach Road, Susupe from 5pm to 7pm.

The second checkpoint will be from Chalan Pale Arnold, Garapan to Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Laulau from 8pm to 10pm.

On May 30, the first checkpoint will be from Beach Road, Chalan Laulau to Beach Road, San Antonio from 9am to 11am.

The second checkpoint will be from Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, San Jose to Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, Dandan from 12pm to 2pm.

In addition, police will be conducting laser speed enforcement along various highways. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy Birthday to our all-star, Jylon Joseph, who turns 12 today! Wishing you so much love and happiness! May the good Lord continue to bless you with many more years to come! We love you! Greetings come from the family!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Imperial Pacific supports 2 community events

The Corporate Social Responsibility Division of Imperial Pacific International recently extended its all-out support to two community events: the All Schools Track and Field Interscholastic League and the 36th Charter Day celebration of Northern Marianas College.

Imperial Pacific International CSR team assists the 2017 All Schools Track and Field Interscholastic League that was held at the Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Middle School field last week.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Imperial Pacific International CSR executive director Geri Dela Cruz demonstrates to young participants at the baseball throw section of their carnival games booth.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

IPI-CSR coordinator Chandis Cooper was one of the two emcees of the 36th NMC Charter Day celebration. In this photo she joins Patrick Arriola, her co-host.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

IPI-CSR representative Mike Salas makes sure the equipment and boundaries are set up accordingly.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

IPI-CSR representative Jia Kapileo and donations manager Selmalyn Taitano test the equipment before the event.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

IPI-CSR coordinator Chandis Cooper explains the rules and regulations to young participants for the softball throw event.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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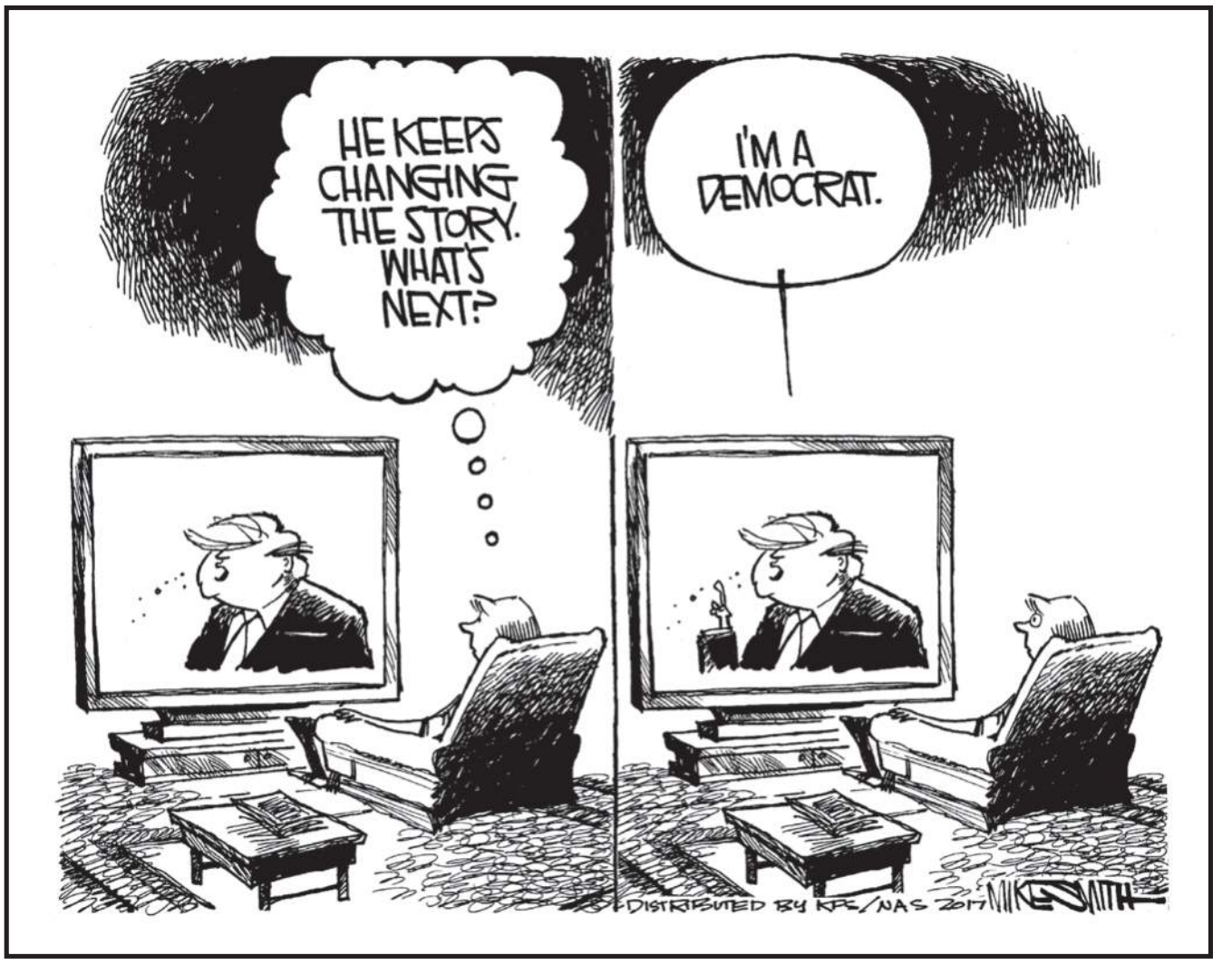


EDITORIAL

Trump arms the Kurds against Islamic State: Next, mollify the angry Turks

The long, bloody bid to run Islamic State out of Mosul, the militant group's last major stronghold in Iraq, is in its seventh month. It's a testament to the time and patience it takes to defeat Islamic State fighters entrenched in an urban environment. Count on the same measure of time and patience to retake Raqqa, Islamic State's de facto capital in war-wracked Syria.

But one crucial steppingstone in the campaign to oust the militant group from Raqqa was finally reached last week, when President Donald Trump decided to arm Syrian Kurdish fighters poised to move in on the northern Syrian city.

The Pentagon will supply Kurdish forces with heavy machine guns, armored cars, anti-tank weapons and mortars _ supplies regarded as pivotal against an enemy that has fortified itself with trenches, booby traps, car bombs and even tanks taken from Syrian army forces. Why Kurdish forces? Because Syrian Kurds have the best track record for retaking territory from Islamic State.

Arming the Kurds is the right tack for Trump to take, a decision that for months we have been urging both Trump and his predecessor, Barack Obama, to make. Behind the reluctance by both administrations has been a strong concern over how Turkey will react. Syrian Kurdish forces, also known as the YPG, are fighting under the umbrella of the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces, alongside Syrian Arab forces. Turkey has long regarded the YPG as a terrorist force linked with the Kurdistan Workers' Party, a separatist group that Ankara has clashed with for decades. Turkey, along with the U.S. and Europe, lists the party, known as the PKK, as a terrorist organization.

The reaction to Trump's decision from Turkey, a NATO member and an important ally in the fight against Islamic State, was swift and blunt. Its defense minister, Fikri Isik, said Wednesday that the decision plunges Washington and Ankara into a "crisis." He warned cryptically that Turkey, which has its own troops in Syria, has the authority to defend its interests in that country.

The Pentagon and State Department will need to work fast to get Turkey to, if not support the decision to arm the Kurds, at least acquiesce to it. The U.S. has already made it clear that once Raqqa is liberated, Syrian Arabs rather than Kurds will govern the city. And American officials have stressed that the U.S. will try to ensure that the arms supplied to Kurdish fighters aren't smuggled out for separatist attacks on Turkish interests.

So far, that hasn't been enough to mollify Turkey. Trump and his team will get a chance to chip away at Ankara's

See TRUMP on Next Page

The birth of American nationalism

By CAROL BERKIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Carol Berkin is a professor of history at City University of New York and author of A Sovereign People: The Crises of the 1790s and the Birth of American Nationalism (Perseus Books, 2017). *She wrote this for* The Philadelphia Inquirer.

An American picks up a newspaper and reads of a new national crisis: Is it a foreign plot against America? Domestic unrest or violence in the streets of the capital? Is Congress stymied by party politics? Perhaps it's the threat of involvement in another world war?

This is, of course, daily news in 2017; but it was also the daily fare in the 1790s. And in those fraught years, the United States was not a world power; it was a fledgling nation whose survival was in doubt.

It was the task of that decade's two Federalist presidents, George Washington and John Adams, both to win the loyalty of Americans to the new national government and to gain an acknowledgment from European powers that the United States was indeed an independent, sovereign nation.

During his first administration, Washington faced a rebellion of angry western farmers who denied the federal Congress any right to tax them. He had to engage in a delicate negotiation with Great Britain to prevent a second war between the former Mother Country and its colonies. And he had to deal with a French minister who ran amok, ignoring Washington's explicit declaration of neutrality in the war raging in Europe.

As Washington's successor, Adams faced equally dire crises, including threats of secession that came as a response to his administration's repressive laws intended to silence newspaper opposition to federal policies and deliver a crushing blow to Thomas Jefferson's opposition party.

If unanswered, any of these challenges might have been fatal to an untested and still highly contested new Constitution and to the experiment in a national representative government that it established. Yet a mishandling of the response could be equally disastrous. For example, a failure to put down the western farmers' "whiskey rebellion" could lead other citizens to resist _ or ignore _ congressional laws they disliked.

But too abrupt a suppression of the rebellion was certain to conjure up images of a central government as tyrannical and abusive as the government of George III. Washington had to move cautiously and exhaust all legal, judicial, and political means to enforce the law before ordering military action. Adams moved with equal delicacy when he found himself confronting new existential threats to his young nation.

The Federalists made many mistakes and they frequently acted in bald self-interest. Yet during the 11 years they dominated the federal government they managed not only to sustain a fragile experiment in representative government but also to nurture a critically important sense of national identity in American citizens.

The arc of this essential and positive nationalism can be followed with each crisis. American support for Washington's military action against the whiskey rebels was based on the people's love and respect for a single man, George Washington. But by the time Edmund Genet was recalled to France, that support had been institutionalized; it was the office of the Executive, not the man who held it, that Americans would henceforth rely on to direct the nation's foreign policies.

Under Adams, the attachment to the nation's government grew. The French insults to American sovereignty during the XYZ Affair made Americans more firmly conscious that they were not simply Virginians, or Pennsylvanians, or New Yorkers; they were united as Americans.

Finally, in their response to the repressive Alien and Sedition Acts, the legislatures of Virginia and Kentucky forced an examination of the relative sovereignty of the federal government and the state governments.

Yet where once any legitimacy of a national government was challenged, these Southern legislators only challenged the extent of the federal government's power, not its source. They defended the rights of the states, but they did not deny the authority of the Constitution or its government. When Jefferson and his Republican Party unseated the Federalists in the election of 1800, the work of the Federalists was done: the American nationalism they had fostered would survive until it was threatened by Civil War.

In the 1790s, the Federalists nurtured a nationalism based on the people's commitment to their government and their sense of shared responsibility for its actions and its reputation in the wider world. Today, nationalism has taken on a more restrictive and negative character and it divides us rather than unites us. We can only hope that, like Washington and Adams, the men and women we elect will appreciate the complexities of governance and the value of a shared pride in the policies our nation embraces and the paths it pursues.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Kutturan Kadu`

Kulan tafa` kuttura-ta i mafanana`an "politically correct", era modun kuentos `nai ta letke sumañgan i minagahet pot no tachu`ot siñienten i otru.

Ni mas demus yan finu` Judas este na modun kombetsasion. Un` hasñgun sumañgan i dinage nai un` tampe i lache.

Sahñge i amtau na eskaleran finu` mañaina lau hombre este debi ha` u saga i akonsehu gi haf` magahet yan diberas.

Gi todu dineskuten maseha haf` na asuntu, debi i kombetsasion na umapega gi hilu` faktu na infotmasion, ahe` ti hafa siñienteta. Dispues i sentimentu humalum `nai monhayan makondukta amtau na hunta gi asuntu. Ha sedi kabales na inebalua gi asunto-ta siha.

Pot ihemplu: Masita hau ni kotte kumu testigu kontra un` tautau ni ma-akukusa mamunu`. `Nai un` atan i prohimu un` konfitma na guiya i mamunu`.

Mafaisen hau kau guiya, un` tulaika hinasomu pot yine`ase`. `Nai un` tulaika sentiment-mu guiya ennau i siñiente-mu. Ti tinilaika i faktu na i lini`e-mu guiya i mamunu`. Uttimoña un` tulaika ineppe-mu pot yine`ase`. Hagu ennau para un` dinisidi lau dispues atan kau ti un` padesi ma-akusa dinage.

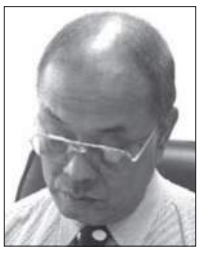
Tinilaika: I usun modetnu na trastes technology siha ni mana` fan sesetbi ni famaguon-ta mauleg u guaha areglun halum guma`. I trastes siha ha inklusu iphone, ipad yan regulat na laptop.

Usun este siha na trastes ha utut otdinariu na konbetsasion familia `nai kada unu tumalag papapa` gi iyoña iphone. Ni ñgai`an i modetnu na trastes technology ni siña ha tahgue finana`guen saina. Gaige i pisu gi inadiñgan saina yan patgon.

Hutnalerus: I probleman tinahuñg hutnalerus guine gaige na primet ayudu para nesessidat Best Sunshine. Gi mismu tiempu maletke i nesessidat otru siha bisnis guine.

Ti in` repara na todu bisnis guine fuetsau manapapase todu klasen tax? I Best Sunshine ti mahahala aduana (tax ginen salape`, miyon pot miyon) ni ma-apostan ñañaihon gi lamasan huegu. Dinanche este na areglu?

Dos klasen tax guaha: Income ginen ma-apostan ñaihon na salape` yan tax bisnis gi uttimun i sakan. I tatatte i ha apapase i Best Sunshine. Ya ayu i debi umatax ginen salape` aposta?



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

Iya Macau 39 pot sientu matatax nina` halum aposta. Guine, dañkulun seru! Dinanche este na areglu? Manmañgge i mansabiun I Deni`? Kau mampus bula ayuduña gi manma`gas na manmamahlau mapega mona este na asuntu para benefisiun i publiku?

I asuntu pot direchota gumubietnan maisa hit. I para ta letki este na asuntu taigue gi offisiat na obligasion para ta sustenen maisa gobietnamento-ta.

Lugat Totche: Iya Puntan Muchot hagas lugat natibu pañglau yan guihan. Manadan familia antes umaprubecha i fina` sisonyan `nai manatachu pa`gu mandañkulun hotel. I kantun tasi lugat chumenchulu para manadan familia.

Dimalas ayu na keha i nina` halum mame gi kotte layeye pot para ta prisetba i lugat pot hagas sagan familia man-etotche antes. Uttimoña achamaliñgu i dos lugat totche para hita ni tautau tanu`.

Hana fan chatsaga hit maliñgun ayu na lugat sa` fuetsau `an para tafan gualaf debi tafan e`suette otru kantun chalan siha. Taya` linachiña i intension prisetbasion modun linala` natibu. Matai adumididi` modun inaligau totchen familia kontodu peskan guihan yan pañglau.

Magahet na bonitu i lugat na tiempu. I hagas fache` yorehu maliñgu gi papa` kandet i parking lot. Lamlam kontodu puntan damagas-hu. Tat duda na masakrifisia lugat umetotche antes. Pa`gu, puru manguaguan pañglau ni ma-impotta ni tihu lañgag umapase ni sueddun Social Security! Dios mihu!

Ti sen kilisyanu esta gumualaf katkuet lugat pot manadan che`chu` petbeserias punta pot punta. Tatnai sisida para tamana` fan tailaye.

**Gi Inamko`ta:** Antes, fuetsudu-yu`. `An husague` machiteghu esta bibiñgbiñg ya tat ti ma`tut desde tañgantañgan gi gualu` yan hayun foggun.

Gi nigapña `nai husague` padarauhu kanaha` matai i bisinu sa` fihoña `nai malofan macheteghu. Mangagauyu` dispensu. Ai, hagas manlagu` sensin koduhu. Muñga che`chu` atotgante. Deskansa na biahe!

Pot Chaleg: Gi halum misa hu atan haye mangaige. Guaha siha man-acha-amko`hu ni mansinaulag esta chenot tufai.

Megai mankakadidiñg pot putin tomu mientras i pumalu manapatte baban mata, gatdun koyentura yan putin tatautau.

Hu atan na kumu guaha emerensia hu upus todu gi kinekeyuñg. Lau siempre masodayu` gumagalileg papa` gi gua`ot sa` esta lokue` ti siña sumagayu` gotpe taiguihe antes. Guahu ma-akude ti siha! Dios mihu Iku!

■■■

`Nai umasoda` i dos bachet gi halum tenda ilegña i unu, "Ai pare, esta la apmam desde ke umali`e hit, no?" A`saina!

In various interviews, Trump shows he understands little

By JONATHAN BERNSTEIN
Bloomberg View

Jonathan Bernstein is a Bloomberg View columnist. Readers may email him at jbernstein62@bloomberg.net.

I was going to write about something else, but frankly I just can't work around what Donald Trump has said in multiple interviews released Thursday. You should really read the full interviews, or at least the excerpts, but here's the gist:

He told the *Economist* he invented the use of "priming the pump" with regard to the economy. It's probably most associated with Franklin Roosevelt, and even if Trump meant "came upon it" rather than "came up with it" it's remarkable for anyone in his position to be that ignorant of normal economics usage.

Then again, he's never showed that he knows anything about economics.

He spoke gibberish about aircraft carriers to *Time* magazine: "I said, 'What system are you going to be?' 'Sir, we're staying with digital.' I said, 'No, you're not. You going to goddamned steam; the digital costs hundreds of millions of dollars more money and it's no good.'"

I know very little about aircraft carriers, but the people who do know this stuff confirm that he doesn't know what he's talking about. Not that he's wrong, mind you; he isn't coherent enough to be wrong.

Then he completely contradicted his own explanation on James Comey's firing to NBC News. The old story was that Trump was reacting to a recommendation from the Department of Justice; the new story is that he was always going to fire Comey.

Why does that fit in with the other two quotes? Because it demonstrates that Trump can't be bothered to even master his own talking points, even in something which could put his entire presidency at risk. Or perhaps he's intellectually incapable of doing so. Either way, the president talks and talks without showing any mastery _ any understanding _ of anything.

By the way: I didn't select unusual passages from the Economist or Time interviews; indeed, one might argue that the pump-priming section is among the least incoherent sections. He's utterly incomprehensible when it comes to trade, for example, which is one area which he's talked about for decades and in which he has pretty deep strong views if not actual policies. He's certain that the U.S. is being ripped off in trade deals, but if he actually knows how, or even what those trade deals do, he's excellent at keeping any of that understanding from seeping into what he says.

Vox's Sarah Kliff has the same observations about Trump and health care, based on the Time interview. Trump, she points out, still doesn't seem to distinguish between arranging health care as an employer and designing a national health care system. And Kliff is generous to suggest Trump simply hasn't "familiarized himself with the details of the Republican health care plan." The blunt truth is that Trump has yet to demonstrate even a vague familiarity with its broad outlines.

Look: We have known this since the campaign, but every once in a while it's worth stopping and saying it. On issue after issue, Trump sounds like a student who vaguely recognizes a few phrases and is repeating them until the next student is called upon.

Presidents don't need to know details, although it usually helps. But they certainly should have a pretty good grasp of the broad outlines of multiple policy areas. And they should also have a good sense of what they don't know _ so they're not overly influenced by what one deck officer or one foreign leader or, even, what one cabinet secretary tells them.

It's absolutely terrifying that the president of the United States may not have that knowledge base. But it's worse if we pretend our way around it.

TRUMP

From Page 10

objections when Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan visits Washington next week.

So much is at stake: The U.S. cannot afford to alienate a Turkish government that remains crucial in the ongoing battle against Islamist militancy. But vital to that battle is the defeat of Islamic State in Raqqa. Victory for the West there, coupled with success in Mosul, would deprive Islamic State of its two primary nerve centers in the Middle East.

Arming the Kurds is a good first step.

Safeguarding ties with Turkey is the next.

(c) 2017 *Chicago Tribune*

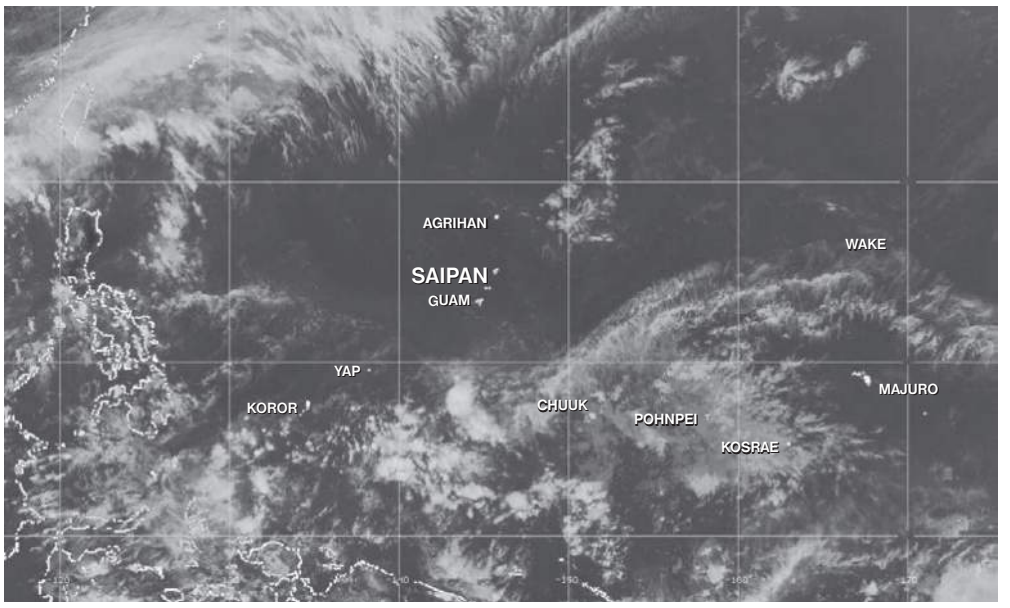
PINK SLIP
BY JOE "CATCHPHRASE: 'YOU'RE FIRED!'" FOURNIER
JAMES COMEY EXPLAINS
LORDY! IF THE POSSIBILITY OF MY ALTERING THE OUTCOME OF THE ELECTION MADE ME MILDLY NAUSEOUS,
THEN THIS LETTER OF DISMISSAL FROM A PRESIDENT WHOM I WAS INVESTIGATING FOR COLLUSION WITH THE RUSSIANS MAKES ME WANT TO...
GRP!

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Sun and a few passing clouds.	Mostly sunny skies.	Scattered showers and thunderstorms, especially early in the day.	Isolated thunderstorms in the morning. Skies will become partly cloudy later in the day.	A few clouds.
▲87º ▼80º	▲87º ▼79º	▲86º ▼79º	▲86º ▼79º	▲86º ▼79º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:20 AM, TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Little change made to the forecast. A dry season weather pattern will remain over the Marianas at least until next Monday. Expect only isolated showers to prevail through the week at best. Models continue to suggest that there may be a brief period of mostly cloudy skies later tonight and Wednesday. Various model runs however show decreasing amounts of cloud cover in their predictions so confidence in any increase in clouds tonight and Wednesday is low. Winds will be between 10 and 20 mph today through Thursday then decreasing to 10 to 15 mph Friday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87 | 81 °F
Palau	Thunderstorms	86 | 78 °F
Yap	Partly cloudy	87 | 72 °F
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87 | 81 °F
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86 | 79 °F
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86 | 80 °F
Majuro	Partly cloudy	86 | 80 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	68 | 59 °F
Beijing	Partly cloudy	85 | 64 °F
Hong Kong	Mostly cloudy	81 | 74 °F
Honolulu	Sunny	84 | 71 °F
London	Rain	63 | 51 °F
Los Angeles	Partly cloudy	68 | 57 °F
Manila	Thunderstorms	90 | 78 °F
Melbourne	Cloudy	61 | 49 °F
Miami	Thunderstorms	85 | 77 °F
New York	Sunny	89 | 68 °F
Osaka	Partly cloudy	77 | 55 °F
Paris	Partly cloudy	79 | 54 °F
Pusan	Sunny	77 | 53 °F
Rome	Mostly Sunny	84 | 58 °F
Salem	Rain	61 | 43 °F
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	64 | 50 °F
Seoul	Sunny	79 | 54 °F
Tokyo	Cloudy	71 | 57 °F
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	93 | 71 °F

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:32 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.77
6:22 AM	LOW TIDE	1.19
10:37 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.55
6:04 PM	LOW TIDE	0.05

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:47 AM	6:38 PM
Thursday	5:47 AM	6:39 PM
Friday	5:47 AM	6:39 PM
Saturday	5:47 AM	6:39 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:40 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	10:38 AM	11:42 PM
Thursday	-	11:29 AM	-
Friday	12:26 AM	12:21 PM	-
Saturday	1:10 AM	1:13 PM	-
Sunday	1:54 AM	2:07 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 25, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:35am	6:25am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	3:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily
ZE582	4:25pm	8:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	2:55am	6:10am	1, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	4, 5

SAIPAN-JEJU (CJU)

7C3433	3:55am	7:30am	3, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:50am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:30am	Daily via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 3, 4, 6
HX077	2:15am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6391/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

LJ651	8:25am	1:45pm	Daily
ZE581	10:15am	3:35pm	Daily
7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	8:15pm	1:35am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	8:30pm	1:20am+1	6, 7
OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
7C3452	9:35pm	2:15am+1	3, 4

JEJU (CJU)-SAIPAN

7C3434	10:05pm	2:40am+1	2, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:50pm	12:45am+1	3, 7
UO42	4:50pm	12:05am+1	2, 6
UO42	6:05pm	1:10am+1	1
UO42	6:10pm	1:10am+1	4
UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Business

Huge cyberattack ebbs as investigators work to find culprits

NEW YORK (AP)—The global cyberattack that took computer files hostage appeared to slow on Monday as authorities worked to catch the extortionists behind it—a difficult task that involves searching for digital clues and following the money.

Among their findings so far: The first suggestions of a possible link between the "ransomware" known as WannaCry and hackers linked to North Korea. Those findings remain quite tentative; one firm advancing them described them as intriguing but still "weak."

Experts had warned that WannaCry might wreak renewed havoc on Monday, particularly in Asia, which was closed for business on Friday when the malware scrambled data at hospitals, factories, government agencies, banks and other businesses.

But while there were thousands of additional infections there, the expected second-wave outbreak largely failed to materialize, in part because security researchers had already defanged it .

Mikko Hypponen, chief research officer for the Finnish security company F-Secure, said the perpetrators of WannaCry made one crucial mistake.

"The malware became too successful," Hypponen said. "When you are a cybercriminal gang and your mission is to make money, you don't want to infect 200,000 work stations. You don't want to end up on the covers of magazines. There will be no shortage of investigation."

ABOUT THAT NORTH KOREA LINK

WannaCry paralyzed computers running mostly older versions of Microsoft Windows in some 150 countries. It encrypted users' computer files and displayed a message demanding $300 to $600 worth of the digital currency bitcoin to release them; failure to pay would leave the data scrambled and likely beyond repair .

The Russian security firm Kaspersky Lab said Monday that portions of the WannaCry program use the same code as malware previously distributed by the Lazarus Group, a hacker collective behind the 2014 Sony hack blamed on North Korea.

But it's possible the code was simply copied from the Lazarus malware without any other direct connection. Kaspersky said "further research can be crucial to connecting the dots."

Another security company, Symantec, has also found similarities between WannaCry and Lazarus tools, and said it's "continuing to investigate for stronger connections."

FOLLOW THE MONEY

Researchers might find some additional clues in the bitcoin accounts accepting the ransom payments. There have been three accounts identified so far, and there's no indication yet that the criminals have touched the funds. But what good is money just sitting there as digital bits?

Although bitcoin is anonymized, researchers can watch it flow from user to user. So investigators can follow the transactions until an anonymous account matches with a real person, said Steve Grobman, chief technology officer with the California security company McAfee.

But that technique is no sure bet. There are ways to convert bitcoins into cash on the sly through third parties. And even finding a real person might be no help if they're in a jurisdiction that won't cooperate.

Another possible slip-up: Nicholas Weaver, who teaches networking and security at the University of California, Berkeley, said good ransomware usually generates a unique bitcoin address for each payment to make tracing difficult. That didn't seem to happen here.

TELL-TALE SIGNS

James Lewis, a cybersecurity expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, said U.S. investigators are collecting forensic information—such as internet addresses, samples of malware or information the culprits might have inadvertently left on computers—that could be matched with the handiwork of known hackers.

Investigators might also be able to extract some information about the attacker from a previously hidden internet address connected to WannaCry's "kill switch." That switch was essentially a beacon sending the message "hey, I'm infected" to the hidden address, Weaver said.

That means the very first attempts to reach that address, which might have been recorded by spy agencies such as the NSA or Russian intelligence, could lead to "patient zero"—the first computer infected with WannaCry. That, in turn, might further narrow the focus on possible suspects.

THE PLAYERS

Forensics, though, will only get investigators so far. One challenge will be sharing intelligence in real time to move as quickly as the criminals—a tricky feat when some of the major nations involved, such as the U.S. and Russia, distrust each other.

Even if the perpetrators can be identified, bringing them to justice could be another matter. They might be hiding out in countries that wouldn't be willing to extradite suspects for prosecution, said Robert Cattanach, a former U.S. Justice Department attorney and an expert on cybersecurity.

On the other hand, the WannaCry attack hit—and annoyed—many countries. Russia was among the hardest, and Britain among the most high-profile, and both have "some pretty good investigative capabilities," Cattanach said.

Held hostage by ransomware

Ransomware is a type of malware that prevents or limits users from accessing their system. Ransomware forces its victims to pay the ransom through online payment methods in order to grant access to their systems.

How was I infected?

You can unknowingly download ransomware from ...

- Compromised websites
- Attacments on spammed emails
- Other malware

Step 1: What happens

- Can lock screen
- Can find certain files and encrypt them

Step 2: Displays ransom note

- Victim receives a ransom note with instructions on how to pay with Bitcoin

Step 3: Transfer money

- Victim purchases Bitcoin and transfers it to the attacker's Bitcoin address

Step 4: Confirmation

- Victim sends the transfer ID to the attacker as proof of payment

Step 5: Unlock

- Once transaction is complete, decryption instructions are sent to victim

Source: trendmicro.com
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

Fidget spinners, the hit toy that spun out of nowhere

NEW YORK (AP)—Stores can't keep them in stock. Parents are scrambling to find them. And some schools have banned them.

The mania for fidget spinners—the 3-inch twirling gadgets taking over classrooms and cubicles—is unlike many other toy crazes. They're not made by a major company, timed for the holiday season, or promoted in TV commercials. They're more easily found at gas stations or 7-Eleven than at big toy chains.

"It just took off," says Richard Gottlieb, a consultant at Global Toy Experts in New York.

Fidget spinners have been around for years, mostly used by kids with autism or attention disorders to help them concentrate. But they exploded in popularity this spring.

Shannan Rowell, a sixth-grade special education teacher, says that after a weeklong break in late April more than half of her 25 students suddenly had one.

"They seem to be taking over classrooms," says Rowell, who lives in North Grafton, Massachusetts.

Gottlieb thinks it's likely a kid brought one to a playground and the craze spread from there. Recent YouTube videos of people spinning them on their noses, foreheads and shoes also helped.

Helen Holden heard about fidget spinners last month when her 7-year-old twins demanded she stop at a 7-Eleven to buy them. "I thought it was a drink," says the bank vice president and blogger from Los Angeles.

That store was sold out, and so were several other 7-Eleven locations that she called. The chain says spinners have "been flying off the shelves" since they went on sale in March.

Holden's kids said they needed them before school on Monday so they could practice spinning them. So she signed up for Amazon Prime, paid $5.99 for one-day shipping and had two $15 fidget spinners delivered on a Sunday.

"I totally got suckered by my kids," she says.

At Funky Monkey Toys, owner Tom Jones says he got a phone call about the fidget spinners in April. About 30 minutes later, another person called. "I said, 'Whatever they are, I need to get them.'"

Now, the phone has been ringing 20 to 30 times a day with people checking if they're in stock. His shop in Oxford, Michigan, can sell up to 150 in a day.

"We run out of them frequently," says Jones, who recently got a shipment of 2,000.

On Amazon.com, 18 of the top 20 best-selling toys and games were fidget spinners, ranging from ones that cost just a few dollars to $12 versions touting stainless steel bearings.

Five Below, which sells items for $5 or less, says on its website that customers can only buy two fidget spinners at time.

Toys R Us flew fidget spinners in this month from China, rather than wait for ship transport. It says Rubik's Cubes, yo-yos and other toys to occupy restless hands have been hot sellers since the beginning of the year. It also started selling $12.99 fidget cubes—the items that made up the rest of the Amazon best-sellers—which fit in the palm of a hand and have clickers, wheels and switches on the sides.

Unlike hot toys at the holiday season, which are often made by one company, manufacturers—mostly in China—are making the fidget spinners as fast as they can. Jim Silver, the CEO and editor-in-chief of toy review website TTPM, expects the fad to last into the summer and then fade as more of them flood into the market.

"Demand starts to waver," he says.

Engineer Catherine Hettinger says she came up with a toy that was similar but not exactly the same in the early 1990s, but a patent expired more than a decade ago after she stopped paying the maintenance fees. Hettinger, who lives in the Orlando suburb of Winter Park, Florida, says she is not making any money from the craze.

"No one has contacted me. Nobody has sent me a check," she says. "But once a patent expires, it's public, so I wouldn't expect anything at this point."

Despite being marketed as a concentration aid, some teachers say fidget spinners have become a distraction.

Rowell, the sixth-grade teacher, says students twirled them too fast, banged them against desks or tried to whirl them on top of each other. She lets students bring them into the classroom, but only if they spin them under their desks and follow the rules she hung on the wall: "YOU MUST BE LOOKING AT THE TEACHER," ''YOU MUST BE LOOKING AT YOUR WORK" and "YOU MUST BE DISCREET."

Some schools have banned them. A middle school in Williamstown, New Jersey, wrote that spinners needed to stay in backpacks because they were a distraction in classrooms, hallways and during lunch periods. An elementary school in New York told parents to keep the gadgets at home because they were twirling into children's faces.

It's not just kids spinning them. Gottlieb thinks adults are reaching for spinners because they are more stressed out. "People don't smoke as much, so they have to figure out a way to work out their stress," he says.

Kim Juszczak, a lawyer from New York, whirls her red-and-black spinner on the subway or while she's thinking up legal arguments for a case.

"I'm naturally kind of fidgety," says Juszczak, who used to bend paperclips in her hand.

She first saw a spinner on Instagram, and got hers for about $6 on Amazon. Then she bought six more for friends and relatives.

"They're addictive," she says.

Nation

Report: Trump shared secret info about IS with Russians

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump revealed highly classified information about Islamic State militants to Russian officials during a meeting last week, The Washington Post reported Monday, prompting strong condemnation from both Democrats and Republicans.

Three White House officials who were in the May 10 meeting strongly denounced the story, saying no intelligence sources and methods were discussed - but they didn't deny that classified information was disclosed.

Citing current and former U.S. officials, the Post said Trump shared details about an Islamic State terror threat related to the use of laptop computers on aircraft with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and Russian Ambassador to the U.S. Sergey Kislyak.

The anonymous officials told the Post that the information Trump relayed during the Oval Office meeting had been provided by a U.S. partner through an intelligence-sharing arrangement. They said it was considered so sensitive that details have been withheld from allies and tightly restricted even within the U.S. government.

"I was in the room, it didn't happen," H.R. McMaster, Trump's national security adviser, told reporters outside the White House late Monday.

"The president and the foreign minister reviewed a range of common threats to our two countries including threats to civil aviation," McMaster said. "At no time, at no time were intelligence sources or methods discussed and the president did not disclose any military operations that were not already publicly known."

He said Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Dina Powell, deputy national security adviser for strategy, remember the meeting the same way. "Their on-the-record accounts should outweigh those of anonymous sources" in the news report, he said.

Tillerson said Trump discussed a range of subjects, including "common efforts and threats regarding counterterrorism." He said that during that exchange the nature of specific threats were discussed, but they did not discuss sources, methods or military operations.

Powell said: "This story is false. The president only discussed the common threats that both countries faced."

The Post story—which was later confirmed by The New York Times and BuzzFeed News—does not claim that Trump revealed any specific information about how the intelligence was gathered. Still, it will only heighten Trump's strained relations with intelligence workers and former officials, who view Russia as an adversary.

Even before he was inaugurated, intelligence professionals worried about sharing classified information with Trump, who often shoots from the hip.

If true, the breach was ill-timed, coming a day after Trump fired former FBI Director James Comey, who was leading an investigation into Russian meddling in the presidential election. Trump's first national security adviser, Michael Flynn, was fired after he misled Vice President Mike Pence about conversations he had with Kisylak.

It's unlikely that Trump has broken any law. As president, Trump has broad authority to declassify government secrets.

The Post said the intelligence partner had not given the United States permission to share the material with Russian officials. By doing so, Trump would have jeopardized cooperation from an ally familiar with the inner workings of the Islamic State group, and make other allies—or even U.S. intelligence officials—wary about sharing future top secret details with the president.

Afterward, White House officials took steps to contain the damage, placing calls to the CIA and the National Security Agency, the newspaper said.

AP

President Donald Trump smiles while meeting with Abu Dhabi's Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Monday, May 15, 2017, in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington.

Federal judges ask if travel ban is biased against Muslims

SEATTLE (AP)—Federal judges on Monday peppered a lawyer for President Donald Trump with questions about whether the administration's travel ban discriminates against Muslims and zeroed in on the president's campaign statements, the second time in a week the rhetoric has faced judicial scrutiny.

Acting Solicitor General Jeffrey Wall, defending the travel ban, told the three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that the executive order should be reinstated because it falls well within the president's authority.

"No one has ever attempted to set aside a law that is neutral on its face and neutral in its operation on the basis of largely campaign trail comments made by a private citizen running for office," he said.

Further, Wall said the president had backed off the comments he made during the campaign, clarifying that "what he was talking about was Islamic terrorist groups and the countries that sponsor or shelter them."

Neal Katyal, who represented Hawaii, a plaintiff in the lawsuit, expressed disbelief at that argument and said Trump had repeatedly spoken of a Muslim ban during the presidential campaign and after.

"This is a repeated pattern of the president," Katyal said.

The 9th Circuit panel was hearing arguments over Hawaii's lawsuit challenging the travel ban, which would suspend the nation's refugee program and temporarily bar new visas for citizens of Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen. The judges will decide whether to uphold a Hawaii judge's decision in March that blocked the ban.

Last week, judges on the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals heard arguments over whether to affirm a Maryland judge's decision putting the ban on ice. They also questioned whether they could consider Trump's campaign statements, with one judge asking if there was anything other than "willful blindness" that would prevent them from doing so.

Dozens of advocates for refugees and immigrants rallied outside the federal courthouse in Seattle, some carrying "No Ban, No Wall" signs.

Wall's insistence that the travel ban should be upheld because it is "neutral," without reference to Islam, drew pointed questions from Judge Richard Paez. An executive order issued by President Franklin Roosevelt that led to the internment of 110,000 Japanese-Americans during World War II similarly was couched as a necessity for national security and made no reference to residents of Japanese heritage, Paez noted.

The U.S. Supreme Court upheld that executive order in a challenge brought by California resident Fred Korematsu. The ruling is now widely considered regrettable.

"Would the Korematsu executive order pass muster under your test today?" Paez grilled Wall.

"No, Judge Paez," he answered

"Why not? 'Facially legitimate'—that's all you say!" Paez said. "You emphasize 'facially legitimate.'"

"I want to be very clear about this," Wall said solemnly. "This case is not Korematsu, and if it were I wouldn't be standing here and the United States would not be defending it."

Man holding human head stabs store clerk; mother found dead

ESTACADA, Ore. (AP)—A man killed his mother on Mother's Day at a rural Oregon home, then showed up at a grocery store in a nearby town carrying a decapitated human head and began stabbing a checkout clerk before being subdued, authorities said Monday.

Officers determined the head the man was carrying belonged to his mother, the Sandy Police Department said.

An autopsy was underway Monday on the body of Tina Marie Webb, 59, the same day that her son, 36-year-old Joshua Lee Webb, was booked on charges of murder and attempted murder in the case. He has not yet made a court appearance.

The gruesome chain of events unfolded in two tiny, rural towns once known for logging about 30 miles (48 kilometers) south of Portland and sent shock waves through Estacada, where most people knew the white-haired checkout clerk identified as 66-year-old Michael Wagner for his warmth and quick sense of humor.

David Webb, the father of Joshua Lee Webb, sobbed as he struggled to process his wife's death and his son's arrest in one horrible day.

Joshua Webb had vision problems and received Social Security payments, his father said. He lived at home so his parents could care for him, his father said, adding that they had recently bought him a dog because he wanted one.

His mother had said she believed her son was depressed, but David Webb said he never saw any indication of that when he spoke with his son.

"I never foresaw a problem. If I had I would have stopped it," David Webb said, before bursting into loud sobs during a phone interview with The Associated Press. "I just can't believe I lost my wife and son in one day. ... I don't know. I wish I did. I wish I had some answers, but I don't. I waited all my life to retire with my wife, and now I can't. That's all I know."

The bizarre sequence began Sunday afternoon—Mother's Day—in Colton, a once-significant logging town about 40 miles (64 kilometers) southeast of Portland.

The Clackamas County Sheriff's Office said Webb killed his mother at their rural home, but it did not provide more details.

Joshua Webb then showed up at a Thriftway in downtown Estacada, about 12 miles to the north. When he entered the small grocery store, he was covered in blood, had a large "kitchen-type" knife and was carrying a severed human head, authorities said.

He began stabbing a store employee, but he was quickly overwhelmed by other employees, who held him until police arrived, authorities said.

Asia

PH lawmakers kill impeachment case vs Duterte

AP

In this April 29, 2017 file photo, Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte gestures while addressing the media following the conclusion of the 30th ASEAN Leaders' Summit in Manila, Philippines.

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine lawmakers on Monday killed an impeachment complaint accusing President Rodrigo Duterte of crimes against humanity for the thousands of people who have died in his anti-drug crackdown.

The Justice Committee of the House of Representatives, which is dominated by Duterte allies, declared during the first hearing on the matter that while the complaint was sufficient in form, there was insufficient substance to proceed.

The decision to stop the impeachment complaint, which also accused Duterte of murder, corruption and unexplained wealth, was expected. But the president's critics hope the procedure could bolster a lawsuit against him before the International Criminal Court for alleged extrajudicial killings by showing that domestic efforts to stop Duterte have failed.

The dismissal of the complaint, filed in March, bars any new impeachment case against Duterte until next March.

Since taking office in June, Duterte's war on drugs has killed 7,000-9,000 suspected drug dealers and addicts, according to human rights groups. The government refutes that, releasing data on May 2 showing nearly 4,600 people have been killed in police anti-drug operations and homicides found to be drug-related.

During Monday's hearing, Rep. Rodolfo Farinas, the majority floor leader, questioned Rep. Gary Alejano on whether he had personal knowledge of allegations he made in his complaint, including the more than 8,000 people killed in the anti-drug war and the billions of pesos supposedly in Duterte's bank accounts.

Alejano said he had no personal knowledge as a witness, but that he had personal knowledge as a complainant based on official records, affidavits of witnesses and Duterte's public pronouncements. His appeals to be allowed to explain were rejected.

Opposition Rep. Edcel Lagman urged the committee to allow Alejano to be heard, saying to determine substance, there only needs to be a recital of facts on offenses charged and determination that they are under the committee's jurisdiction.

"While it is true that an impeachment proceeding is a political exercise, it is not a partisan enterprise," Lagman said.

After an executive session, several lawmakers pointed to Alejano's lack of personal knowledge about the alleged crimes, calling his allegations hearsay. Forty-two of 49 committee members then voted to declare the complaint sufficient in form but insufficient in substance.

A frustrated Alejano told reporters that he'll discuss with his colleagues from the Magdalo party whether they should file their own complaint before the ICC.

He said it was clear that the procedure "was railroaded" and that the House "is not independent."

"Now that they have killed the impeachment, which is the only way for the people to hold the president accountable, where will we exact justice from him, he is immune to suits," Alejano said.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said that Alejano's complaint "was from rehashed, trumped-up charges aimed at undermining the duly constituted government."

China's Xi outlines plans for wide cooperation in trade plan

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese President Xi Jinping has announced ambitious plans for Asian and European governments to work more closely on finance, law enforcement and a wide array of other issues under a Beijing-led trade initiative.

Xi spoke Monday as leaders of 30 nations wrapped up a two-day meeting to promote China's "Belt and Road" initiative. It calls for expanding trade across Asia, Africa and Europe by investing in ports, railways and other facilities.

Xi expressed hope for cooperation in areas including law enforcement, economic policy and anti-corruption. He acknowledged that the initiative is in its early stages and faces daunting obstacles.

Governments including Russia, the United States and India have expressed unease about Beijing's possible political motives in pursuing the trade initiative. Xi's hopes for even wider cooperation could add to potential opposition.

Australian minister calls for tougher rules on refugees

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Australia's immigration minister on Tuesday urged tougher refugee rules that would deport refugees who took vacations in countries where they claimed to fear persecution.

Immigration Minister Peter Dutton canceled the protection visas of six Iranians last year after discovering that they had returned to their homeland, where they claimed to fear for their lives.

But all six were allowed to stay in Australia after they successfully appealed to a court that hears public complaints about government decisions, News Corp. newspapers reported.

Rulings from the Administrative Appeals Tribunal can also be appealed in civil courts in what Dutton described as a "legal roundabout" and an "endless cycle of decision reviews."

The Australian system was "too generous" to asylum seekers and needed to be tightened with new laws, Dutton said.

"If you're claiming that you've got on a boat and come to our country to flee persecution from country X, and then you're heading back there to get married or heading back there for a family vacation, then really there is no validity to your claim," Dutton told Adelaide Radio FiveAA.

One Iranian claimed to have been on an Iranian wanted list and fled that country on a fake passport, newspapers reported.

After Australia accepted his refugee claim, he applied for an Iranian passport and used it to fly back to his homeland.

Another Iranian returned to Iran three times after becoming a refugee in Australia, once to marry, newspapers reported.

Two family members claimed to be stateless when they were accepted as refugees. Their story unraveled when a relative who wanted to join them in Australia provided evidence that all three were Iranian citizens.

An Iranian couple claimed in their protection visa application that they had no identity documents, but later returned to Iran on Iranian passports.

Dutton's office confirmed that the newspaper reports of the six Iranians' circumstances were accurate. Their names cannot be published under Australian law.

The six paid smugglers to bring them from Indonesia to Australia before the government introduced a tough policy in 2013 that prevents any refugees who arrive by boat from ever settling in Australia.

The United States has agreed to accept up to 1,250 of these refugees who are languishing in camps on the Pacific island nations of Nauru and Papua New Guinea.

But U.S. officials are doing their own background checks to ensure that only genuine refugees are accepted by the United States.

The Refugee Council of Australia, an advocacy group, said Australia needed safeguards to ensure that rejected asylum seekers were not returned to danger or death.

"The vast majority of people who have arrived in Australia by boat have been found to have a well-founded fear of persecution and have proven to be refugees—over the last 40 years this number is in excess of 80 percent," Paul Power, the council's chief executive, said in a statement.

World

Busy day for French president: Names PM, meets with Merkel

AP
New French President Emmanuel Macron is welcomed by German Chancellor Angela Merkel in Berlin Monday, May 15, 2017, during his first foreign trip after his inauguration the day before.

BERLIN (AP)—French President Emmanuel Macron hit the ground running Monday on his first full day in office by naming a prime minister from the center-right and then flying to Germany, where he and Chancellor Angela Merkel pledged to work together to undertake European reforms.

At home, Macron started to shape his government by appointing relatively little-known lawmaker Edouard Philippe, 46, as his prime minister. That made good on a promise to repopulate French politics with new faces and reinforced the generational shift under Macron, who at 39 is France's youngest president.

Then, a large crowd outside the chancellery welcomed Macron to Berlin, with some waving European Union flags. Macron and Merkel were all smiles inside, and the German leader declared that "Europe will only do well if there is a strong France, and I am committed to that."

Germany and France have traditionally been the motor of European integration, but the relationship has become increasingly lopsided in recent years as France struggled economically.

German leaders were hugely relieved by the independent centrist's rout of far-right rival Marine Le Pen in the May 7 presidential runoff, and now they hope that Macron can deliver the economic upturn that his predecessors couldn't.

Macron is the conservative Merkel's fourth French president in nearly 12 years as chancellor. Some media have dubbed the pair "Merkron"—a reference to the "Merkozy" moniker used for Merkel and Nicolas Sarkozy, France's conservative leader from 2007-12.

Merkel called for "new dynamism" in the countries' relationship. She said she was "aware of the responsibility, at a very critical moment for the European Union, to take the right decisions together."

The 28-nation EU faces complex divorce proceedings with Britain, its current No. 2 economy. When Britain leaves the bloc in 2019, France will be the EU's only member with nuclear weapons and a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council.

Macron made clear his determination to tackle his country's problems.

"The French agenda will be an agenda of reform in the coming months, in economic, social and educational terms," he said. "Not because Europe requests it, but because France needs it."

France, he said, "is today the only big country in the European Union that, for more than 30 years, has not succeeded in beating the problem of mass unemployment."

Macron also declared there needs to be "a Europe that protects our citizens better." Together with Germany, he said, he wants to work on "a common road map for the European Union and the eurozone."

Macron faces his first big test next month in legislative elections that will determine how far he is able to advance his reform agenda. He is the first president of modern France to come neither from the mainstream left nor the right parties.

Philippe, the mayor of the Normandy port of Le Havre, is a trained lawyer and an author of political thrillers. He is a member of the Republicans, a mainstream-right party whose candidate Macron beat in the first round of the election.

Philippe could possibly attract other Republicans to Macron's cause. Alain Juppe, a former prime minister, called Philippe "a man of great talent" with "all the qualities to handle the difficult job."

Macron also is siphoning off support from lawmakers on the left. At least 24 Socialists are now campaigning for re-election under the banner of Macron's Republic on the Move party.

2 young men killed as chaos erupts in western Venezuela

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Chaos erupted in western Venezuela during another round of protests against the socialist government, with buildings set afire, tear gas swirling around protesters and at least two people killed.

A grisly video purporting to show the final moments of one man left dead in the turmoil capped Monday's unrest as a morning of initially peaceful demonstrations turned violent outside Caracas, with two deaths reported at separate demonstrations in Tachira, a mountainous state bordering Colombia.

In the video, a crowd surrounds a man identified as Diego Hernandez, 33, lying lifeless on the pavement, his eyes wide open. A bystander rips open his blue T-shirt, revealing a bloody wound underneath.

"They killed him!" someone cries out.

Authorities in Tachira said the second man killed was Luis Alviarez, 18, who died from a bullet wound in the thorax.

Demonstrators clashed with police and national guardsmen, throwing rocks and setting an armored truck on fire. State security officers unleashed clouds of white tear gas and rubber bullets at protesters. Several buildings were in flames and dozens injured, including one young woman, who stood on a street, her face covered in blood.

In the central state of Carabobo, three officers were shot, including one in critical condition after being struck in the head, authorities said. In Lara, a vehicle ran over three protesters.

The violence added to a mounting toll of bloodshed as Venezuela's opposition vows to step up near-daily demonstrations and Maduro shows no intention of conceding to opposition demands. More than three dozen people have been killed, including a national guardsman and a police officer, hundreds injured and as many as 2,000 detained in nearly seven weeks of protests.

International pressure on the troubled South American nation is continuing to increase, with the Organization of American States voting Monday to hold a rare foreign ministers' meeting later this month to discuss Venezuela's political crisis. The Washington-based group only convenes such meetings to address most urgent affairs.

"We ask the world to look at what's happening right now in Venezuela," opposition leader Maria Corina Machado said after Monday's violence. "A deranged regime that represses and kills its people."

Venezuela announced in late April that it would be leaving the OAS, a regional body that Maduro contends the OAS is meddling in Venezuela's domestic affairs, infringing on its sovereignty and trying to remove him from power. Venezuela's representative to the OAS did not attend Monday's meeting.

The fiery Venezuelan president is vowing to resolve his nation's crisis by convening a special assembly to rewrite the nation's constitution, while the opposition is demanding an immediate presidential election.

Polls indicate the great majority of Venezuelans want Maduro gone as violent crime soars and the country falls into economic ruin, with triple-digit inflation and shortages of many basic foods and medical supplies.

The wave of protests was set off by a government move to nullify the opposition-controlled congress in late March, but the demonstrations have morphed into a general airing of grievances against the unpopular socialist administration amid worsening economic problems and rising crime.

In Caracas on Monday, thousands hauled folding chairs, beach umbrellas and protest signs onto main roads for a 12-hour "sit-in against the dictatorship," the latest in a month and a half of street demonstrations. Demonstrators assembled a giant rosary with balloons hanging from a Caracas highway overpass. A group of flamenco dancers dressed in black performed for the crowds. Others simply sat and held signs declaring their resistance.

WORLD BRIEFS

UN forces retake strategic areas of C. African Republic city

BANGUI, Central African Republic (AP)—United Nations peacekeeping forces in Central African Republic retook strategic points of Bangassou Monday after armed rebels attacked over the weekend, killing a peacekeeper at a nearby U.N. base and displacing several thousand, the United Nations said Monday. More than 1,000 residents had fled their homes and had taken refuge in a mosque; some 1,500 others in a cathedral; and 500 others in a hospital, humanitarian agencies said. U.N. forces pushed the Christian anti-Balaka rebels from areas around the mosque, allowing those inside to leave for a more secure area, according to U.N. mission spokesman Herve Verhoosel. "Airstrikes carried out all day on Monday have allowed the troops on the ground to reconquer strategic points of the city before held by the assailants," he said. "The U.N. force has also taken over and secured the mosque and the displaced who were inside."

Journalist Javier Valdez shot to death in Mexico drug state

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Javier Valdez was driving in broad daylight down a street he must have known well, just a block from his office, when he became the latest victim of a wave of journalist killings that has hit Mexico. Masked gunmen forced Valdez from his red Toyota Camry, shot him dead and left his body in the middle of the street Monday, said Riodoce, the publication he helped start. The car was found later in the afternoon on a sidewalk next to an elementary school, wedged between a utility pole and a wall with the motor still running and the gears engaged. Valdez, an award-winning reporter who specialized in covering drug trafficking and organized crime, was slain in the northern state of Sinaloa, long a hotbed of drug cartel activity. He is at least the sixth journalist murdered in Mexico since early March, an unusually high number even for one of the world's deadliest countries for media professionals.

Focus

By DANICA KIRKA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP

British IT expert Marcus Hutchins who has been branded a hero for slowing down the WannaCry global cyber attack, sits in front of his workstation during an interview in Ilfracombe, England, Monday, May 15, 2017. Hutchins thwarted the virus that took computer files hostage around the world, including the British National Health computer network, telling The Associated Press he doesn't consider himself a hero but fights malware because "it's the right thing to do."

AP Interview:

Expert who beat cyberattack says he's no hero

ILFRACOMBE, England (AP)—A young British computer expert credited with cracking the WannaCry cyberattack told The Associated Press he doesn't consider himself a hero but fights malware because "it's the right thing to do."

In his first face-to-face interview, Marcus Hutchins, who works for Los Angeles-based Kryptos Logic, said Monday that hundreds of computer experts worked throughout the weekend to fight the virus, which paralyzed computers in some 150 countries.

"I'm definitely not a hero," he said. "I'm just someone doing my bit to stop botnets."

The 22-year-old computer whiz from the south coast of England, discovered a so-called "kill switch" that slowed the unprecedented outbreak on Friday. He then spent the next three days fighting the worm that crippled Britain's hospital network as well as computer systems around the world.

WannaCry paralyzed computers running mostly older versions of Microsoft Windows by encrypting users' computer files and displaying a message demanding anywhere from $300 to $600 to release them; failure to pay would leave the data mangled and likely beyond repair.

Hutchins said he stumbled across the solution when he was analyzing a sample of the malicious code and noticed it was linked to an unregistered web address. He promptly registered the domain, something he regularly does to discover ways to track or stop cyber threats, and found that stopped the worm from spreading.

Salim Neino, CEO of Kryptos Logic, said Hutchins took over the "kill switch" on Friday afternoon European time, before it could fully affect the United States.

"Marcus, with the program he runs at Kryptos Logic, not only saved the United States but also prevented further damage to the rest of the world," Neino said. "Within a few moments, we were able to validate that there was indeed a kill switch. It was a very exciting moment. This is something that Marcus validated himself."

He said the company was not able to identify "Patient Zero," the first system infected, which would give researchers more information about who was behind the attack. Nevertheless, he said the worm was "poorly designed"—patched together and a "sum of different parts" with an unsophisticated payment system.

Kryptos Logic is one of hundreds of companies working to combat online threats for companies, government agencies and individuals around the world.

Hutchins himself is part of a global community that constantly watches for attacks and works to thwart them, often sharing information on Twitter. It's not uncommon for members to use aliases, to protect from retaliatory attacks and ensure privacy.

Hutchins has long tweeted under the handle MalwareTech, which features a profile photo of a pouty-faced cat wearing enormous sunglasses. But he realizes his newfound fame will mean an end to the anonymity.

After all, now he's a computer celebrity. He's been in touch with the FBI, as well as British national cyber security officials.

"I don't think I'm ever going back to the MalwareTech that everyone knew," said the curly-haired young man, shrugging and flashing a winning smile.

It is likely to be a big adjustment. Hutchins lives with his family in this seaside town, where he works out of his bedroom on a sophisticated computer setup with three enormous screens. He will soon become a local hero - but if you ask him, his life of celebrity will be short lived.

"I felt like I should agree to one interview," he said. But even that made the fame-averse Hutchins so nervous that he initially misspelled his last name, leaving out the letter "n" when doing a sound-level for the cameras.

His mother Janet, a nurse, couldn't be prouder - and was happy to have the veil of anonymity lifted.

"I wanted to scream, but I couldn't," she said.

Many will be following his next moves though. CyberSecurity Ventures, which tracks the industry, estimates global spending on cybersecurity will jump to $120 billion this year from just $3.5 billion in 2004. It forecasts expenditures will grow between 12 percent and 15 percent annually for the next five years.

"While all other technology sectors are driven by reducing inefficiencies and increasing productivity, cybersecurity spending is driven by cybercrime," the firm said in a February report. "The unprecedented cybercriminal activity we are witnessing is generating so much cyber spending, it's become nearly impossible for analysts to keep track."

After more analysis, Hutchins, an avid surfer, plans to take a vacation - traveling to Las Vegas and California on the company dime.

One guess on what he'll be doing:

Yes, surfing. On waves this time.

AP Explains: What is bitcoin? A look at the digital currency

NEW YORK (AP)—It's worth more than an ounce of gold right now, it's completely digital and it's the currency of choice for the cyberattackers who crippled computer networks around the world in recent days.

When the attackers' "ransomware" sprang into action, it held victims hostage by encrypting their data and demanding they send payments in bitcoins to regain access to their computers. Bitcoin has a fuzzy history, but it's a type of currency that allows people to buy goods and services and exchange money without involving banks, credit card issuers or other third parties.

Here's a brief look at bitcoin:

HOW BITCOINS WORK

Bitcoin is a digital currency that is not tied to a bank or government and allows users to spend money anonymously. The coins are created by users who "mine" them by lending computing power to verify other users' transactions. They receive bitcoins in exchange. The coins also can be bought and sold on exchanges with U.S. dollars and other currencies.

HOW MUCH IS IT WORTH?

One bitcoin recently traded for $1,734.65, according to Coinbase, a company that helps users exchange bitcoins. That makes it more valuable than an ounce of gold, which trades at less than $1,230.

The value of bitcoins can swing sharply, though. A year ago, one was worth $457.04, which means that it's nearly quadrupled in the last 12 months. But its price doesn't always go up. A bitcoin's value plunged by 23 percent against the dollar in just a week this past January. It fell by the same amount again in 10 days during March.

WHY BITCOINS ARE POPULAR

Bitcoins are basically lines of computer code that are digitally signed each time they travel from one owner to the next. Transactions can be made anonymously, making the currency popular with libertarians as well as tech enthusiasts, speculators - and criminals.

IS IT REALLY ANONYMOUS?

Yes, to a point. Transactions and accounts can be traced, but the account owners aren't necessarily known. However, investigators might be able to track down the owners when bitcoins are converted to regular currency.

For now, the three accounts tied to the ransomware attack appear untouched - and it'll be difficult for perpetrators to cash in anytime soon without getting traced.

HOW MUCH MONEY?

Security experts say the amount of ransom collected so far appears small relative to the extent of the outbreak. Tom Bossert, President Donald Trump's adviser for homeland security and counterterrorism, says it appears less than $70,000 has been paid in ransoms.

It's possible, though, that there are unknown accounts beyond the three identified.

WHO'S USING BITCOIN?

Some businesses have jumped on the bitcoin bandwagon amid a flurry of media coverage. Overstock.com accepts payments in bitcoin, for example.

The currency has become popular enough that more than 300,000 daily transactions have been occurring recently, according to bitcoin wallet site blockchain.info. A year ago, activity was closer to 230,000 transactions per day.

Still, its popularity is low compared with cash and cards, and many individuals and businesses won't accept bitcoins for payments.

HOW BITCOINS ARE KEPT SECURE

The bitcoin network works by harnessing individuals' greed for the collective good. A network of tech-savvy users called miners keep the system honest by pouring their computing power into a blockchain, a global running tally of every bitcoin transaction. The blockchain prevents rogues from spending the same bitcoin twice, and the miners are rewarded for their efforts by being gifted with the occasional bitcoin. As long as miners keep the blockchain secure, counterfeiting shouldn't be an issue.

HOW BITCOIN CAME TO BE

It's a mystery. Bitcoin was launched in 2009 by a person or group of people operating under the name Satoshi Nakamoto. Bitcoin was then adopted by a small clutch of enthusiasts. Nakamoto dropped off the map as bitcoin began to attract widespread attention. But proponents say that doesn't matter: The currency obeys its own internal logic.

An Australian entrepreneur last year stepped forward and claimed to be the founder of bitcoin, only to say days later that he did not "have the courage" to publish proof that he is.

Good Housekeeping

On Gardening:

Wedding Dance amaryllis, not just any old head of a horse

By NORMAN WINTER
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

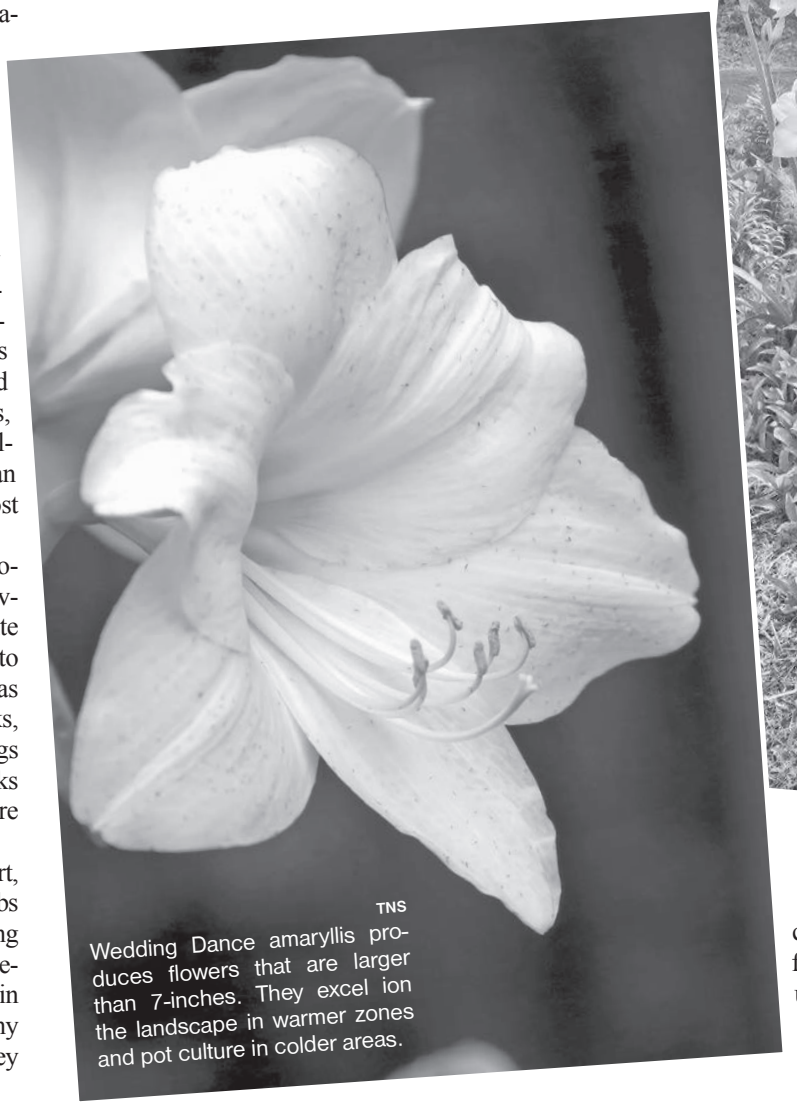
If I told you that the name of the most beautiful bulb you could grow derives from Greek words meaning 'head of a horse,' try as you might you probably could not conjure up the vision of an amaryllis. The amaryllis so exquisite in spring gardens in the South is known botanically as Hippeastrum, meaning the head of a horse, or horseman.

I assure you, Trigger it's not. Just within sight of our fairy-like gazebo in the Cottage Garden, a show happens each spring that draws the attention of cameras and visitors like few other plants, the Wedding Dance amaryllis. It's a perfect name for an amaryllis in the site of almost weekly weddings.

This hybrid amaryllis produces stalks that exhibit several enormous, pristine white flowers measuring up to 7-inches in width. Ours has been producing for weeks, and while most bulb catalogs and vendors suggest stalks 16 to 20-inches high, ours are sturdy and easily hitting 32.

Amaryllis, for the most part, are considered zone 8-10 bulbs but Wedding Dance, according to Tony Avent with Plant Delights Nursery, can be grown in zone 7b possibly colder. Tony commented that in 1996 they endured -1 degree F.

Here at the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens in Savannah, we haven't had temperatures nearly so challenging, 18-degrees a couple of years ago and 25 this March, after the garden was 7-weeks ahead of schedule. The St. Joseph's Lily, Hippeastrum x johnsonii, produces deeply saturated red flowers with a pronounced white star and packs, even more, landscape cold tolerance.



TNS

Wedding Dance amaryllis produces flowers that are larger than 7-inches. They excel ion the landscape in warmer zones and pot culture in colder areas.

Gardeners all over the country can enjoy the amaryllis whether in the landscape or one of the most loved Christmas plants forced indoors. Outdoors they prefer fertile, well-drained soil. Ours get morning sun and late afternoon shade. In the landscape, we treat them much like narcissus. We deadhead flowers and leave foliage until it goes dormant.

TNS

Wedding Dance amaryllis produces tall stalks of glistening white flowers that show out against a backdrop of dark green.

Depending on where you live you may buy yours for planting in a pot at Thanksgiving and celebrating the bloom at Christmas. Your soil mix should be light and airy. Whether going in the landscape, or in a pot, plant so that the neck and top of the bulb are in view. Place the pot in a morning sun window and maintain moisture.

After your amaryllis blooms, keep your plant growing until warm, frost-free temperatures arrive and then plant outdoors if you are in the proper hardiness zone. Otherwise, place your pot on the porch patio or deck and keep the foliage actively growing until it goes dormant in mid to late-summer. Bring your pot indoors before any chance of frost removing leaves once they become dry and shriveled. They will need a two month rest period before beginning the cycle again.

Those grown in the landscape in warmer regions can be left in the bed for years without separating, digging or replanting. Once bulbs finally do get crowded, they can be lifted and separated adding plants to other areas of the landscape. Ours are growing surrounded by Blue Sea setcresea or Tradescantia, a beautiful, blue-green form of Purple Heart.

Ours are against a backdrop of the old-fashioned nandina that looks picturesque when you have the large white flowers combined with red berries. The beauty would be even more dazzling if grown in front of hollies sporting red berries. I've only been touting Wedding Dance, but there are hundreds of hybrids all with their own, unique attributes. You most likely will find them readily for sale in the fall. Make this the year you give them a try.

(Norman Winter is director of the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens at the Historic Bamboo Farm, University of Georgia Cooperative Extension, and author of "Tough-as-Nails Flowers for the South" and "Captivating Combinations: Color and Style in the Garden." Follow him at: @CGBG-gardenguru

Double-chile burger with cooling salsa needs smart wine match

By MICHAEL AUSTIN
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

When spice and smoke come together on the plate, you know it's going to be good. In this burger, both types of chile provide the heat while the chipotle brings a smoky note. A bright avocado-tomatillo salsa cools them down. With all that going on, the wine needs some careful thought, like these choices from Oyster Bah sommelier Nate Redner.

EAT THIS DOUBLE-CHILE BURGERS

Mix together 1 pound ground beef; 1 jalapeno, minced; 1 chipotle chile, minced; and 3/4 teaspoon salt. Form into 4 patties, each 1 inch thick. For the salsa, stir together 1 avocado, chopped; 2 tomatillos, chopped; 2 tablespoons lime juice; and 3 tablespoons chopped cilantro. Season with salt. Mash the mixture a bit with a fork so it holds together on the burger. Cook the burger patties in a hot skillet over medium-high heat, flipping once, until browned and the desired doneness inside, about 4 minutes per side. Serve, topped with the salsa, in toasted buns. Makes: 4 servings

Recipe by Joe Gray

DRINK THIS

Pairings by sommelier Nate Redner of Oyster Bah, as told to Michael Austin:

2013 Villa Creek High Road James Berry Vineyard, Paso Robles, California: Mainly mourvedre and syrah with rich grenache rounding out the blend, this red Rhone-style wine has savory herb notes plus dark berry fruit, cocoa powder, licorice and a fine tannin structure. Its ripe and stewed fruit character will match the heat and smoke of the chipotle peppers while its acidity will stand up to the fat in both the burger and the avocado mash.

TNS

A double dose of chiles—fresh jalapeno and chipotle—brings heat to a burger. Both are cooled off by a tomatillo and avocado salsa.

2010 Pierre Gimonnet et Fils, Blanc de Blancs Gastronome, Champagne, France: Five years of aging before disgorgement makes this a weighty style of Champagne, perfect for burgers and spice. Citrus notes of ruby red grapefruit are followed by a smoke finish, mimicking the chipotle-in-adobo. Persistent effervescence will keep the burger from becoming overly rich. Open the bottle a little early, and keep it nicely chilled. Your patience will be rewarded with nuttiness and rich texture.

L. Mawby Grace Brut Rosé Sparkling Wine, Leelanau Peninsula, Michigan: Don't underestimate Michigan bubbles! Larry Mawby has been making traditional method wines in northern Michigan since 1984, and he makes some top-notch bubbles. Grace is a nonvintage rosé of pinot noir that has a lovely shade of pale pink, and notes of wild strawberries, tart raspberries, herbaceous aromas and bright acidity to cut through the fat of the beef and avocado.

Life & Style

Brad Pitt on hubris, 'War Machine' and having 'no secrets'

NEW YORK (AP)—Brad Pitt and Gen. Stanley McChrystal—the inspiration to Pitt's four-star Afghanistan commander in the upcoming Netflix war satire "War Machine "— would seem to be worlds apart. One, an affable member of Hollywood's elite; the other a hard-charging lifetime military man. But Pitt found one connection with his character: a swollen ego, and the damage done.

"Hubris is a trap and it's the trap of every great nation that has been number one for too long. You start believing your own stink," Pitt says. "Anytime I've gotten in trouble, it's because of my own hubris."

Pitt, at the moment, may be particularly empathetic to such a drastic swing as the one that sank McChrystal via an infamous Rolling Stone profile Pitt is now, for the first time since Angelina Jolie Pitt filed for divorce from him last September, stepping back into the limelight. He hasn't been timid. In his first post-separation interview, to GQ, Pitt was unusually candid, speaking frankly about his struggles with alcohol and the pains of dividing their family.

Pitt was similarly forthright in a wide-ranging interview last week with The Associated Press. He called directly—"Hey man, it's Brad"—and over the course of half an hour, discussed his present state of mind, his current attitude about acting and his alarm at the possibility of expanding the war in Afghanistan. Why the openness?

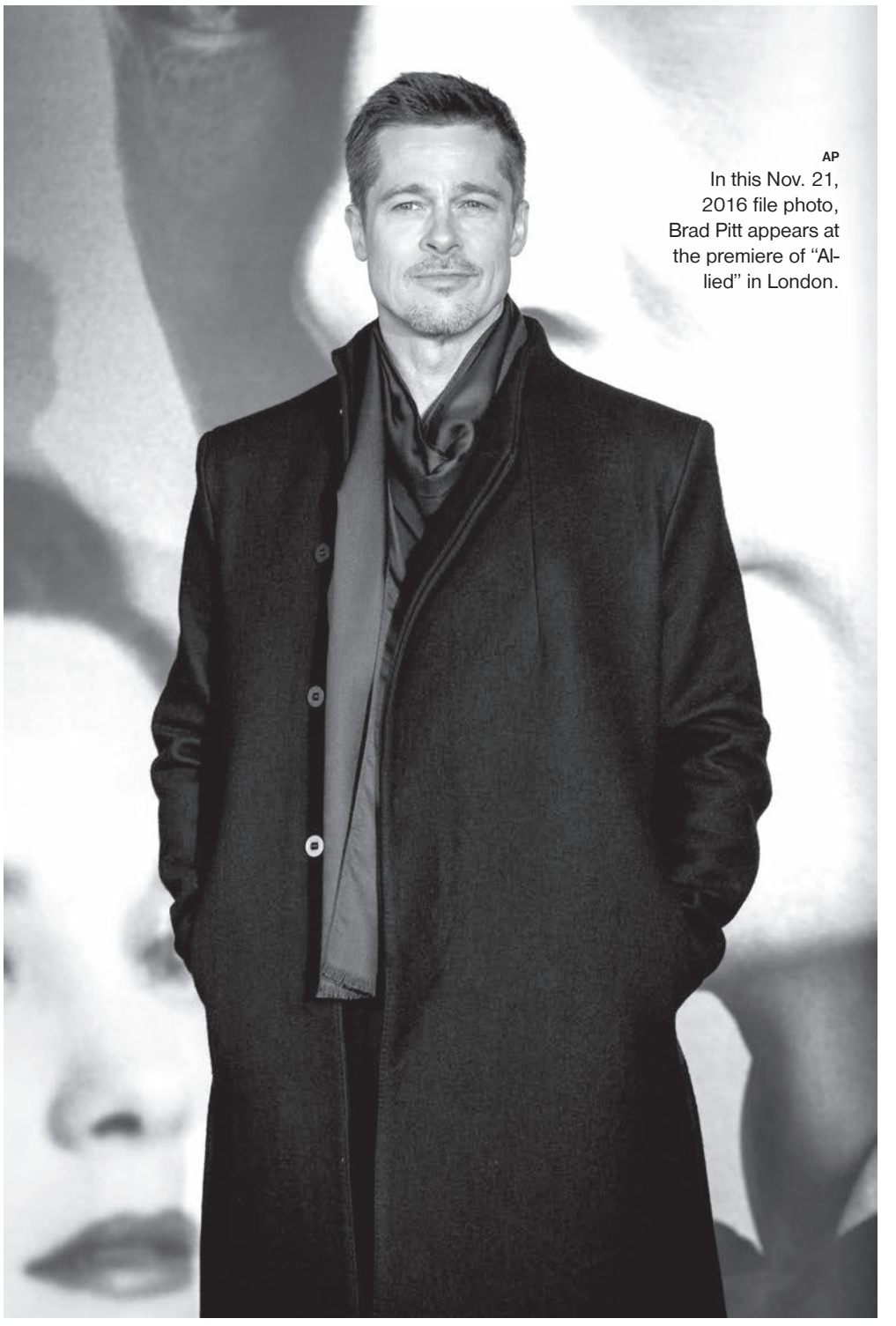
"I've got no secrets. I've got nothing to hide," said Pitt. "We're human and I find the human condition very interesting. If we're not talking about it, then we're not getting better."

It's undoubtedly a fraught period of transition for the 53-year-old actor. He said he's spending his time now "keeping the ship afloat" and "figuring out the new configuration of our family." ''Kids are everything," he said, of their six children. "Kids are your life. They're taking all the focus, as they should anyway."

He's getting through it, he assured. "I'm not suicidal or something," Pitt said, laughing. "There's still much beauty in the world and a lot of love. And a lot of love to be given. It's all right. It's just life."

Pitt was most keen to discuss "War Machine" and the strong passions behind it. The film, written and directed by the Australian filmmaker David Michod ("Animal Kingdom"), is based on Michael Hastings' 2012 book "The Operators," which chronicled

See BRAD on Next Page



AP
In this Nov. 21, 2016 file photo, Brad Pitt appears at the premiere of "Allied" in London.

No laughing matter: Writer claims Conan O'Brien stole jokes

LOS ANGELES (AP)—If the best jokes are stolen, the best comedians don't think it's funny when they're accused of ripping off material.

That's why Conan O'Brien is vigorously defending himself from copyright infringement allegations by a writer who said he plagiarized punchlines about Caitlyn Jenner, Tom Brady and the Washington Monument.

A federal judge in San Diego refused to toss out the lawsuit last week, potentially setting up a novel trial over comic creativity and the value of laughter.

Robert Alexander Kaseberg said he posted several jokes online that the late-night comedian repeated almost verbatim later that day or the next on his "Conan" show on TBS.

"The laughter stopped in late 2014 and early 2015, at least for a spell, when (Kaseberg) began to notice similarities between his posts and several of the jokes used in the late-night television show Conan's monologues," U.S. District Judge Janis Sammartino said in her ruling.

Kaseberg has written for various publications and had more than 1,000 of his jokes told by Jay Leno, an archrival of O'Brien.

The judge tossed out allegations over two jokes Kaseberg claimed were originals, but she allowed the lawsuit to go forward on three others, saying the law provides "thin copyright protection" for those.

One of Kaseberg's jokes was about the New England Patriots 2015 Super Bowl victory that followed what was widely considered one of the worst coaching decisions in sports history by the Seattle Seahawks. O'Brien's monologue the next day included a very similar setup and punchline.

"Tom Brady said he wants to give the truck that he was given as Super Bowl MVP . . . to the guy who won the Super Bowl for the Patriots," O'Brien said. "So Brady's giving his truck to Seahawks coach Pete Carroll."

Another gag followed news that surveyors had found the Washington Monument was 10 inches shorter. Both men attributed it to cold weather and "shrinkage."

Comedians have been accused of ripping off each other's material as long as chickens have been crossing the proverbial road.

Milton Berle, dubbed the "Thief of Bad Gags," even made light of it, saying of a fellow comic's routine, "I laughed so hard I nearly dropped my pencil."

Robin Williams was accused of stealing material and said it happened accidentally. He paid comics for cribbed one-liners, referring to himself as "The First Bank of Comedy" for his payouts.

While accusations of thefts fly, they don't usually end up in court, said Dotan Oliar, a law professor at the University of Virginia.

After Joe Rogan accused Carlos Mencia of plagiarism onstage at the Comedy Store in Los Angeles in a confrontation captured on video, Oliar and a colleague wondered why such accusations didn't lead to litigation.

They found that comedy doesn't pay well—unless you're someone like O'Brien with deep pockets and a production company and network behind him that can also be sued.

It's difficult to prove someone intentionally stole a joke or put a price on a punchline, he said. Disputes are generally settled backstage—usually amicably.

Digital timestamps, however, may help the underdog. The lawsuit compares Kaseberg's tweets and blog posts with the timing of emails from O'Brien's writers later the same days.

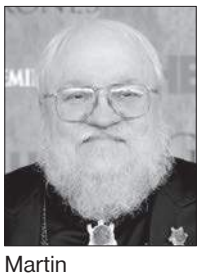
"The problem used to be that if you're not famous and someone else was telling your joke, they would think you ... are the thief instead of the victim," Oliar said. "Famous comedians could easily steal jokes with impunity. Now technology can help the novice comedian."

The lawsuit names O'Brien, his production company, Turner Broadcasting System, Time Warner Inc., and the executive producer and head writer of the show.

They have denied the claims and said the material was original. Their lawyers didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

'Game of Thrones' might spawn new HBO shows, says creator

NEW YORK (AP)—HBO's "Game of Thrones" is in its home stretch. But the game isn't over for its creator, George R.R. Martin, who is in the thick of planning for potential new series on the network.



Martin

Posting on his website, Martin shared some tidbits about what any future "GOT"-related shows might, or might not, be.

HBO announced last week that four scripts are in development for possible series, but Martin disclosed that a fifth project is now in the mix.

But don't call them "spinoffs."

"What we're talking about are new stories set in the 'secondary universe' . of Westeros and the world beyond, the world I created for 'A Song of Ice and Fire,'" Martin wrote. "None of these new shows will be 'spinning off' from 'GOT' in the traditional sense. We are not talking 'Joey' or 'AfterMASH' or even 'Frasier' or 'Lou Grant,' where characters from one show continue on to another."

He added that each of the concepts under development is a prequel, not a sequel, and may not even be set on the mythical continent of Westeros. Rather than "spinoff" or "prequel," Martin said he prefers the term "successor show."

HBO has said that four separate projects are in the writing stage from Max Borenstein, Jane Goldman, Brian Helgeland and Carly Wray, all of whom Martin said he has been working with for months.

But he said yet a fifth project is now underway, with a fifth writer on board he declined to name.

"How many pilots will be filmed, and how many series might come out of that, remains to be seen," he noted.

Only 13 episodes remain for "Game of Thrones," which HBO is splitting into two final seasons. It returns in July.

As for "The Winds of Winter," the long-awaited and eagerly anticipated sixth novel in Martin's epic fantasy series "A Song of Ice and Fire," the author said he will "continue working on it until it's done."

"I will confess, I do wish I could clone myself, or find a way to squeeze more hours into the day, or a way to go without sleep," the busy Martin admitted.

Aaron Hernandez's fiancee: I don't think death was a suicide

BOSTON (AP)—The fiancee of former NFL star Aaron Hernandez said in an interview that she didn't initially believe he had died in his prison cell and doesn't think his death was a suicide.

The first part of a two-part interview with Shayanna Jenkins-Hernandez aired Monday on the "Dr. Phil " show. The second part is set to air Tuesday.

Jenkins-Hernandez told host Dr. Phillip McGraw she doesn't think the former New England Patriots tight end's death April 19 was a suicide, as authorities have ruled. She said he was upbeat in their last telephone conversation before he was found hanged and there was no indication he was suicidal.

"He was very positive," she said.

She said she thought the news of Hernandez's death was a "hoax" and some cruel person was playing a trick on her. She didn't offer an explanation for Hernandez's death if it wasn't a suicide and said she had no reason to believe anyone would want to kill him.

In this, April 12, 2017 file photo, Shayanna Jenkins Hernandez, fiancee of former New England Patriots tight end Aaron Hernandez, sits in the courtroom with the couple's daughter Avielle Janelle Hernandez during jury deliberations in Hernandez's double-murder trial at Suffolk Superior Court in Boston. AP

The death of Hernandez, who grew up in Bristol, Connecticut, and played football at the University of Florida, came days after he was acquitted in a 2012 Boston double slaying. He was serving a life sentence in a 2013 killing. A judge recently erased the 2013 murder conviction against him because he died while he was appealing.

Jenkins-Hernandez expressed doubts about the investigation into Hernandez's death, saying the findings didn't seem "believable."

She answered questions about the legitimacy of a suicide note Hernandez wrote that was addressed to her.

"It was addressed to Shay, instead of babe or bae," Jenkins-Hernandez said.

She said she thought that was "odd" and the letter did not seem personal or intimate.

The state police report said Hernandez wrote "John 3:16," a reference to a Bible verse, in ink on his forehead and in blood on a cell wall. The verse says: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

A Bible was nearby, open to John 3:16, with the verse marked by a drop of blood.

Some inmates have said Hernandez had become increasingly spiritual during his time in prison, but Jenkins-Hernandez said the bible verse didn't sound like Hernandez and he'd never mentioned it to her.

Part of the message to Jenkins-Hernandez also said: "You're rich." Those words have fueled speculation Hernandez left assets to her, but she said she thought about love when she read it and couldn't speak to whether the note was a will and testament.

First lady: Barron to attend private Episcopal school in MD

WASHINGTON (AP)—First lady Melania Trump announced Monday that her son, Barron, will attend a private Episcopal school in Maryland, beginning this fall.

The announcement answered one of the lingering questions surrounding the first family's unusual living arrangement. Mrs. Trump and 11-year-old Barron have been living at Trump Tower in New York since Donald Trump took office in January, while the president has lived at the White House.

Trump has said his wife and youngest child will relocate to the White House after the current school year ends, which meant finding a local school for Barron.

Mrs. Trump said Monday that they have chosen St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Potomac, Maryland, for their son.

"It is known for its diverse community and commitment to academic excellence," she said in a statement. "The mission of St. Andrew's is 'to know and inspire each child in an inclusive community dedicated to exceptional teaching, learning, and service,' all of which appealed to our family."

Annual tuition ranges from more than $23,000 for pre-K to more than $40,000 for students in grades 9-12.

In this April 17, 2017, file photo, President Donald Trump, accompanied by first Lady Melania Trump, introduces their son Barron Trump from the Truman Balcony of the White House in Washington, during the annual Easter Egg Roll. AP

"We look forward to the coming school years at St. Andrew's," Mrs. Trump said.

Founded in 1978, St. Andrew's, a day school, has a total enrollment of 580 students in prekindergarten through 12th grade, according to its website. Class sizes are small, with anywhere from 11 to 13 students, and all of its graduates go on to college, the school said.

"As we came to know Barron through the admission process, it became clear that he, like all of our newly enrolled students, will be a great addition to St. Andrew's," school administrators wrote in a letter to parents on Monday.

A spokesman said the head of the school, Robert Kosasky, would not have any additional comment out of respect for students' privacy.

The school is known for research-informed teaching and the use of neuroscience and other brain-based research, both to help high-achieving students unlock their potential and to tailor education to children with learning disabilities or differences.

Barron currently attends Columbia Grammar and Preparatory School on the Upper West Side of Manhattan.

St. Andrew's is located in the wealthy enclave of Potomac, about 17 miles northwest of the White House and a 30-minute drive in light traffic.

"School leaders are working directly with the Secret Service to ensure that ... logistics and security will continue to work smoothly and discreetly next year for all of our students and families," the letter to parents said.

The Trumps' decision to send Barron to St. Andrew's marks the first time in decades that the school-aged child of a president will attend a school other than at Sidwell Friends, an elite Quaker school with campuses in Washington and Bethesda, Maryland.

President Bill Clinton's daughter, Chelsea, attended Sidwell. So did President Barack Obama's daughters, Malia and Sasha.

Malia Obama, 18, graduated from Sidwell in June 2016. She is taking the year off, what is known as a "gap year," before her expected enrollment at Harvard this fall. Sasha Obama, 15, is a sophomore at Sidwell Friends. Her parents decided to live in Washington after leaving the White House so she can finish her studies there.

President George W. Bush's daughters had graduated high school and were headed to college when he was elected.

President Jimmy Carter is the only recent president to send his child, daughter Amy, to a District of Columbia public school.

BRAD

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McChrystal's tumultuous and short-lived stewardship of the war in Afghanistan.

"War Machine," which debuts on Netflix May 26, takes a slightly fictionalized approach. Pitt's character is named Gen. Glen McMahon, but the events and personalities covered correspond accurately with McChrystal's downfall. The switch, made after the project was announced, saved the film from some potentially thorny legal issues.

"We had no interest in impugning General McChrystal or any of his guys," said Pitt. "For me, the problem is more systematic."

"The impetus for me was a visit to Walter Reed," added Pitt, who visited the military medical center in 2014 . "Those young men and women—who are absolutely heroic in a very harrowing situation—their lives are forever changed and so are their families. It just really made me question who is spending this currency of dedication. Who's writing the check? Who's making the order?"

Particularly galling to Pitt was the request last week by advisers to President Donald Trump and military officials for several thousand more American troops in Afghanistan, a war that has already spanned more than 15 years. It's time to rethink what "winning" means, he says.

"Nothing that we've ever done has said that more troops are going to do anything but cause any more damage, more loss of life and limb," said Pitt. "We talk a lot about supporting our troops but I think supporting our troops is much more than giving them money and a pat on the back. I think it's being responsible to how we use that ultimate dedication."

Trump's top advisers have said the president has not made any final decision about adding more troops in Afghanistan.

In "War Machine," Michod summons some of the spirit of war comedies like "Catch 22" and "M-A-S-H." The film captures an American military driven by politics, illusions and personal aspirations. Pitt's general, with a deeper, gruffer voice than McChrystal's, comes charging into Afghanistan with outlandish delusions of grandeur and departs amid self-inflicted scandal.

"We were tapping into a melding of war and comedy—two things that used to coexist quite conformably, but in this day and age don't," said Michod. "It's very interesting to see how the two coexist in the public sphere given how strangely earnest all conversation about war has gotten in a possibly warped way. But there's something almost truer in that kind of great comedy treatment of decades past than the nature of the discussion that goes on today."

Michod grants it's an approach that makes for some wild swings of tone in "War Machine," but he says a mix of absurdity and tragedy is ultimately more realistic.

"At core, the thing to me that's most powerful about 'War Machine' and what made it feel important to me was that it was about the way personalities can have an incredibly powerful and often a powerfully damaged ripple effect across the world," said Michod. "The movie is called 'War Machine,' but that machine is made up of individuals, individuals with their own strengths and ambitions."

Pitt said he discussed the film with McChrystal. "I feel for him," said the actor. "He's a product of us. He's us." McChrystal, who retired from the Army shortly after resigning command, has since launched a management consulting firm and penned a memoir. He declined to comment for this article.

Little about "War Machine" is typical for a Hollywood production. It would have never gotten made, Pitt said, without Netflix. The streaming service bankrolled the film for $60 million, making it one of Netflix's most ambitious projects yet.

"The degree of difficulty on this one was ten," said Pitt, "which is what makes it worth it for me to go get in front of the camera now."

Through his production company Plan B, Pitt has become a remarkably successful producer. He was behind two of the last three best-picture winners ("Moonlight," "12 Years a Slave") as well as other acclaimed releases like James Gray's "The Lost City of Z." At times, Pitt—though he's prepping numerous projects, including a possible "World War Z" sequel—sounded almost as though his movie star days are behind him.

'Big Bang Theory' star Jim Parsons marries longtime partner

NEW YORK (AP)—"Big Bang Theory" star Jim Parsons has married longtime partner Todd Spiewak.

Parsons' publicist, Jillian Roscoe, has confirmed reports from People magazine and the New York Post that Parsons and Spiewak married Saturday night at the Rainbow Room restaurant in New York's Rockefeller Center.

Parsons posted a picture on Instagram on Monday of himself and Spiewak holding hands while walking down the aisle in tuxedos. He also posted a shot of the newlyweds heading out for their first dance.

Parsons said in an Instagram post last year that meeting Spiewak 14 years ago was the best thing that ever happened to him.

AP

In this May 12, 2014, file photo, Jim Parsons, left, and Todd Spiewak arrive at the NY Premiere of "The Normal Heart" in New York.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Katy Perry announces album release date, North American tour

Katy Perry has announced her upcoming album will be titled "Witness" and will be released on June 9. Perry has also announced an extensive tour of North America to promote the release. The singer's website says Perry's first tour since 2015 begins Sept. 7 in Columbus, Ohio, and has dates listed through Feb. 5. Anyone who buys a ticket will receive a copy of the album. Two singles have been released from "Witness" so far: "Chained to the Rhythm" and "Bon Appetit." Perry hinted at the album's name earlier this month by wearing a headpiece that spelled out the word "Witness" on the red carpet at the Met Gala. Perry is set to perform on the season finale of "Saturday Night Live" this weekend. ***(AP)***

Rapper charged before for encouraging fans to rush the stage

ROGERS, Ark. (AP)—Rapper Travis Scott's recent arrest after a concert in Arkansas is not his first on accusations of encouraging fans to join him on stage. Police in Rogers say the Houston-born musician, whose real name is Jacques Webster, was arrested Saturday night on charges of inciting a riot, disorderly conduct and endangering the welfare of a minor. Police say Webster encouraged fans to bypass security and rush the stage, leaving a security guard, a police officer and several others injured. The Associated Press has sought comment from Webster's representatives. Webster was sentenced to one year of court supervision after pleading guilty to reckless conduct charges stemming from a 2015 incident in Chicago at the Lollapalooza music festival. Chicago officials said Webster encouraged fans to vault security barricades. No one was injured.

Loretta Lynn starting rehabilitation after stroke

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Country legend Loretta Lynn is starting rehabilitation after suffering a stroke more than a week ago. An update posted on her website Monday said the 85-year-old Country Music Hall of Fame singer and songwriter has been moved from a hospital into rehabilitation. She was taken to the hospital May 4 after having a stroke at her home in Hurricane Mills, Tennessee. But she is expected to make a full recovery. The post said she wanted to thank everyone for their prayers and support. The Grammy-winner had a string of hits starting in the 1960s with the biographical "Coal Miner's Daughter," which was made into a best-selling book and movie, as well as songs like "You Ain't Woman Enough," ''The Pill" and "One's on the Way."

Sorry, paparazzi, celebs now get private treatment at LAX

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sorry, paparazzi. Celebrities who are sick of being stalked by photographers at Los Angeles International Airport can now find some privacy—not to mention luxury—at a new terminal. The $22 million facility called The Private Suite opened Monday and offers an exclusive entrance, one-on-one security screening and plush lounges. And when it's time to actually catch the flight, privileged travelers get a private car ride across the tarmac to the aircraft, head-of-state style. The terminal is available to anyone who can afford fees up to $3,500 for a domestic flight or $4,000 for an international flight. Annual memberships are also available. The terminal was built by a security consulting firm that says it will generate $35 million in revenue for the airport over the next nine years.

'Dr Phil' to air 2nd interview with Hernandez's fiancee

BOSTON (AP)—The fiancee of former NFL player Aaron Hernandez is expected to publicly respond to rumors about his sexuality. The second part of a two-part interview with Shayanna Jenkins-Hernandez is scheduled to air Tuesday on the "Dr. Phil" show. Jenkins-Hernandez told host Dr. Phillip McGraw on Monday that she doesn't think the former New England Patriots tight end killed himself on April 19, as authorities have said. She says he was upbeat in their last telephone conversation before he was found hanged and there was no indication he was suicidal. Hernandez's death came days after he was acquitted in a 2012 Boston double slaying. He was serving a life sentence in a 2013 killing. Monday's interview ended with Dr. Phil asking Jenkins-Hernandez about rumors that Hernandez might have been gay.

After 6 years, L.A. Reid out as chairman of Epic Records

After spending six years at Sony's Epic Records, L.A. Reid is no longer leading the label. Sony Music Entertainment released a seven-word statement Saturday announcing the exit: "L.A. Reid will be leaving the company." The label had no additional comment. Reid joined the company as CEO in 2011. Epic Records currently has the No. 1 song on the Billboard Hot 100 chart with "I'm the One," by DJ Khaled featuring Justin Bieber, Chance the Rapper and Quavo from Migos. At Epic, Reid helped push acts like Grammy-winner Meghan Trainor, girl group Fifth Harmony and rapper-singer-producer Future to success. Reid also guided Mariah Carey, Rihanna, Bieber and Kanye West to chart-topping success as president of Island Def Jam. Reid founded LaFace Records and helped launch hits with Toni Braxton, Outkast, TLC and Pink.

Sound Emporium studio given as gift to Lipscomb University

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Lipscomb University will become the new owner of the iconic Nashville recording studio called Sound Emporium, which was originally built in 1969 by legendary Nashville producer "Cowboy" Jack Clement. The university announced Monday that the studio is a gift from former Charlotte/New Orleans Hornets owner George Shinn as part of a previously announced $15 million pledge to the Lipscomb, which named its College of Entertainment and the Arts after him. Since 2011, Shinn has owned the Sound Emporium, where artists such as Johnny Cash, John Denver, REM, Alan Jackson, Garth Brooks, Taylor Swift, Willie Nelson, Merle Haggard and more have recorded. The Grammy-winning soundtrack to the film "O Brother, Where Art Thou?," was also recorded there.

Classic meatloaf is comfort food that warms generations

DEAR ABBY: My stepmother had a recipe for meatloaf that she found in your column years ago. She made it for us often when we visited and we all loved it. However, we have been unable to locate that recipe anywhere and don't remember how to make it. Could you reprint the recipe for me? We've been trying others, but yours is the best.

JENNA IN JACKSONVILLE, FLA.

DEAR JENNA: I'm pleased to share that recipe once again. I have made it and we love it, too. Now that you have mentioned it, when I go to the market later, I'll pick up the ingredients and make it for dinner tonight. The leftovers make wonderful sandwiches! This recipe is part of my cookbooklet set, which has recipes for appetizers, soups, salads, vegetable side dishes, main courses and delicious desserts. The set can be ordered by sending your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby -- Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. By the way, the cookbooklet set also contains a tasty recipe for turkey meatloaf for those who have sworn off red meat, which clearly I haven't.

MEATLOAF
2 lbs. ground beef
1 cup seasoned Italian bread crumbs
1/2 cup finely chopped onion
1/3 cup ketchup
1/3 cup water
1 teaspoon garlic powder
2 eggs
Pepper to taste
Salt, if desired
4 strips bacon, if desired
Heat oven to 350 F.

In large bowl, combine all ingredients except bacon. Shape into a loaf; place in 9-by-5-inch pan. Arrange bacon strips on top of meat mixture, if desired. Bake for 60 minutes. Serves 6 to 8.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating "Brian" for five months. We are very compatible and have discussed spending the rest of our lives together. He is 54; I am 59.

The deal breaker for me is his "daughter" ("Allison"), who is actually the daughter of a friend of his. Allison and Brian's two grown sons grew up together. She's 24.

Allison no longer hangs out, talks with or visits Brian's sons, but she is close to Brian. She has no girlfriends, no male friends and she's estranged from her parents. Brian helps her with school projects, they go to lunch, walk on the beach, text/talk on the phone, go on bike rides, go hiking, etc. He tells me he's a father figure to her.

I have met Allison and I think her behavior is a little too flirtatious for a daughter/father relationship. She also made a couple of inappropriate comments to me during our first meeting. When I mention to Brian that I don't think it's a healthy "friendship," he becomes defensive. Should I bow out now and cut my losses, get to know Allison better, or tell Brian it's me or her?

THIRD WHEEL OUT WEST

DEAR THIRD WHEEL: Brian seems like a nice, caring person. You have known him for only five months. I vote for standing pat a while longer and making an effort to befriend Allison. If she's truly as alone as you describe, she could use an older, more-experienced woman in her life. You might even find you like her rather than feel threatened by her. However, if that's not feasible, you can always cut your losses and run, but not right now.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

LOOK, I'M SORRY I GAVE YOU A BAD HAIRCUT. I DIDN'T MEAN TO.
A FAT LOT OF GOOD THAT DOES ME.
I CAN MAKE IT UP TO YOU. HONEST.
YEAH? HOW?
I BOUGHT A YELLOW MAGIC MARKER.
SEE, I'LL JUST DRAW SOME HAIR ON. THERE, IT'S LOOKING BETTER ALREADY.
REALLY? IS IT?

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

I'M SO PROUD OF YOU, ADAM! THE BOOK LOOKS GREAT.
THANKS, LAURA. I'M PRETTY EXCITED.
WE SHOULD GET A SITTER AND GO SOMEWHERE SPECIAL TO CELEBRATE!
WAIT... YOU DON'T MEAN..?
YES, HONEY. BIG DAVE'S SUPER SMORGASBORD AND MAYONNAISATERIA.
SO MANY DREAMS COMING TRUE!!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I WONDER HOW MANY HOURS I SPEND EACH SUMMER MOWING THE LAWN?
WHEN IT JUST KEEPS GROWING BACK OVER AND OVER.
GRASS IS THE WHISKERS OF THE EARTH.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Tranquil
5 Stitch
8 Not busy
12 On the briny
13 Expert
14 "Hud" Oscar winner Patricia
15 Champagne flutes, e.g.
17 Actor Alan
18 Runway surface
19 Jordan's neighbor
21 Request
22 "Pygmalion" writer
23 "Humbug!"
26 Layer
28 Tequila source
31 Nest egg choices
33 Dawn goddess
35 Eventful periods
36 Magna —
38 Resistance unit
40 Tours season
41 "Phooey!"
43 Klutz
45 Black-eyed legume
47 Gave a speech
51 List-ending abbr.
52 Computer programs
54 Traditional tales
55 Web address
56 Baseball team
57 Casual tops
58 Snoop
59 Coaster

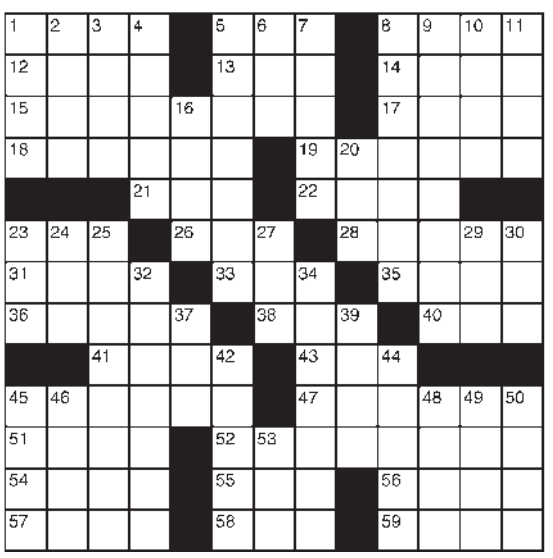
DOWN

1 Group of actors
2 Nick and Nora's pet
3 Ogler's look
4 "— Mia!" (ABBA musical)
5 Hole-fixing compound
6 Mess up
7 "— me!"
8 Fit to be tied
9 First State
10 Stow cargo
11 Airline to Tel Aviv
16 Stinger
20 Na Na lead-in
23 Pen name
24 Altar constellation
25 Nuts and bolts
27 "— -hoo!"
29 Cistern
30 Jargon suffix
32 Basic needs
34 Molasses-flavored pie
37 Chemical suffix
39 Grocery
42 Fill the tank
44 Babes in the woods?
45 Ancient Brit
46 Oklahoma tribe
48 Follow
49 Sea eagle
50 Monopoly card
53 Hockey's Bobby

Solution time: 23 mins.

C	A	B	S	■	S	A	W	■	M	C	■	■
C	P	E	Y	■	T	R	Y	■	F	C	I	O
M	F	A	I	T	I	M	E	■	A	■	E	M
A	X	E	■	S	L	Y	■	G	N	C	M	E
■	■	■	M	A	T	■	B	O	W	■	■	■
S	C	D	E	R	■	L	I	T	H	I	U	M
A	R	I	A	■	L	C	B	■	I	N	■	C
P	A	S	S	I	O	N	■	P	L	E	A	D
■	■	■	U	I	T	■	A	I	F	■	■	■
P	F	A	R	I	■	F	R	A	■	■	U	F
U	R	G	E	■	M	E	A	N	D	F	R	S
I	■	F	U	■	A	I	R	■	R	A	S	P
P	E	E	P	■	C	T	S	■	S	T	A	Y

Yesterday's answer 5-17



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Leven Rambin, 27; Derek Hough, 32; Trent Reznor, 52; Bob Saget, 61.

Happy Birthday: Take a quiet approach to emotional concerns this year. Putting yourself in someone else's shoes will give you leverage to initiate whatever needs to be done in order for you to get your way. Take the time to gather facts that will support whatever changes you want to bring about. If you want to win, you will have to be fully prepared. Your numbers are 1, 6, 14, 26, 30, 34, 45.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Helping others will make you feel good and bring rewards that you least expect. Making personal changes will open up options that allow you to explore new places as well as talents you didn't realize you had. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Look at the big picture when dealing with peers or someone you work for. Staying calm and showing restraint will help you avoid a situation that can make you look unstable or incompetent. Don't let your emotions take over. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Put more into the way you present how you look and what you have to offer. The personal changes you make will filter into your professional life, bringing about new opportunities to reach your goals. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* The changes you want to make won't fit your budget. Avoid emotional spending or taking on something without considering what is entailed. Avoid fast-talking people trying to take advantage of your kind heart and generosity. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Partnerships, business trips and pursuing your dreams are all favored. Your confidence and ability to adapt to whatever comes your way will make you a likely choice when applying for a position. Celebrate with someone you love. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Look over your financial, medical or legal documents to ensure that everything is in order. Travel, educational pursuits and interviews must all be done within a reasonable budget. Going into debt will not be conducive to getting good results. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Social or networking events should be attended with the intent of engaging in topical conversations that make you think. Change can be good if executed properly. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Pick apart any documents or ongoing contractual agreements you have made concerning your residence, family or financial matters, and make sure everything is in order. You'll feel relief if you don't leave anything to chance. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Planning an outing or day trip that includes someone you are in a relationship with will bring you closer together. Don't shy away from expressing your true feelings and intentions. Talks will lead to a bright future. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Don't be surprised if someone from your past tries to reconnect with you. Consider the motives behind the gesture before you accept the invitation. Social media can be fun, but it can also bring back troubles you left behind. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Use your intuition to make good financial, legal or medical decisions. A positive change to the way you live will encourage better health and financial planning. If you want something, do the work and make it happen. Take charge. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Take the initiative to grow mentally, spiritually and financially. Making good choices and reviving old ideas will bring you the recognition and peace of mind you've been searching for. Let go and move into the future with optimism. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, loving and outgoing. You are opportunistic and spirited.

Eugenia's websites -- eugenialast.com for Ask Eugenia, daily timing and compatibility services, and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		2	5	6	9	3		
	5						8	
3				7				4
9				2				3
2	3			9	4	8		5
7								6
1								2
	6			8			9	
		9	3	4	1	7		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/17

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

4	2	7	3	8	9	6	1	5
3	9	6	7	1	5	4	8	2
1	8	5	2	4	6	9	7	3
7	1	8	4	6	3	5	2	9
9	6	3	1	5	2	7	4	8
2	5	4	8	9	7	1	3	6
8	7	9	5	3	4	2	6	1
5	4	1	6	2	8	3	9	7
6	3	2	9	7	1	8	5	4

Difficulty Level ★★ 5/10

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

POLITICAL STAFFERS Solution: 8 letters

L	A	S	O	P	O	R	P	A	Y	M	E	N	T	S
L	I	A	I	S	E	O	F	I	L	E	S	T	Y	A
O	H	E	L	P	L	E	A	D	E	R	N	T	S	L
Y	B	C	O	I	S	D	E	E	N	E	I	S	E	E
A	O	R	C	H	I	E	F	S	M	L	I	V	Y	V
L	T	I	I	H	O	U	S	E	I	S	R	T	N	A
S	E	G	D	E	L	P	L	B	T	E	U	N	Y	R
S	A	E	S	G	F	P	I	N	S	D	M	E	T	T
E	M	C	S	R	M	S	E	U	G	A	E	M	I	R
U	W	R	E	I	N	S	P	E	N	S	S	A	R	O
N	O	U	R	O	E	P	C	A	I	T	E	I	O	P
E	R	O	P	R	O	I	G	S	T	A	N	L	H	S
V	K	S	P	R	F	E	Y	G	E	T	A	R	T	S
E	E	E	T	F	I	E	L	D	E	E	T	A	U	A
R	R	R	O	T	A	I	D	E	M	S	E	P	A	P

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Aides, Assist, Authority, Briefs, Chief, Duty, Field, Files, Help, House, Implement, Leader, Liaise, Loyal, Manage, Mediator, Meetings, Needs, Office, Parliament, Passport, Payments, Pledge, Policies, Press, Proposal, Reports, Represent, Resource, Responsibility, Revenues, Senate, Serve, State, Strategy, Support, Team, Travel, Worker

Yesterday's Answer: Fans

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Interested applicants may send their applications or resumes via email to gemkell_recruitment@tanholdings.com .
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Celtics power past Wizards in Game 7, 115-105

BOSTON (AP)— Isaiah Thomas said he didn't feel any pressure entering the first Game 7 of his career.

His play backed up his confidence and with the help of Kelly Olynyk and the Boston Celtics bench, Thomas earned the biggest win of his career.

Thomas scored 29 points and had 12 assists, Olynyk scored a career-playoff high 26 points and the Celtics used a big fourth quarter to outlast the Washington Wizards 115-105 in Game 7 of the Eastern Conference semifinals Monday night.

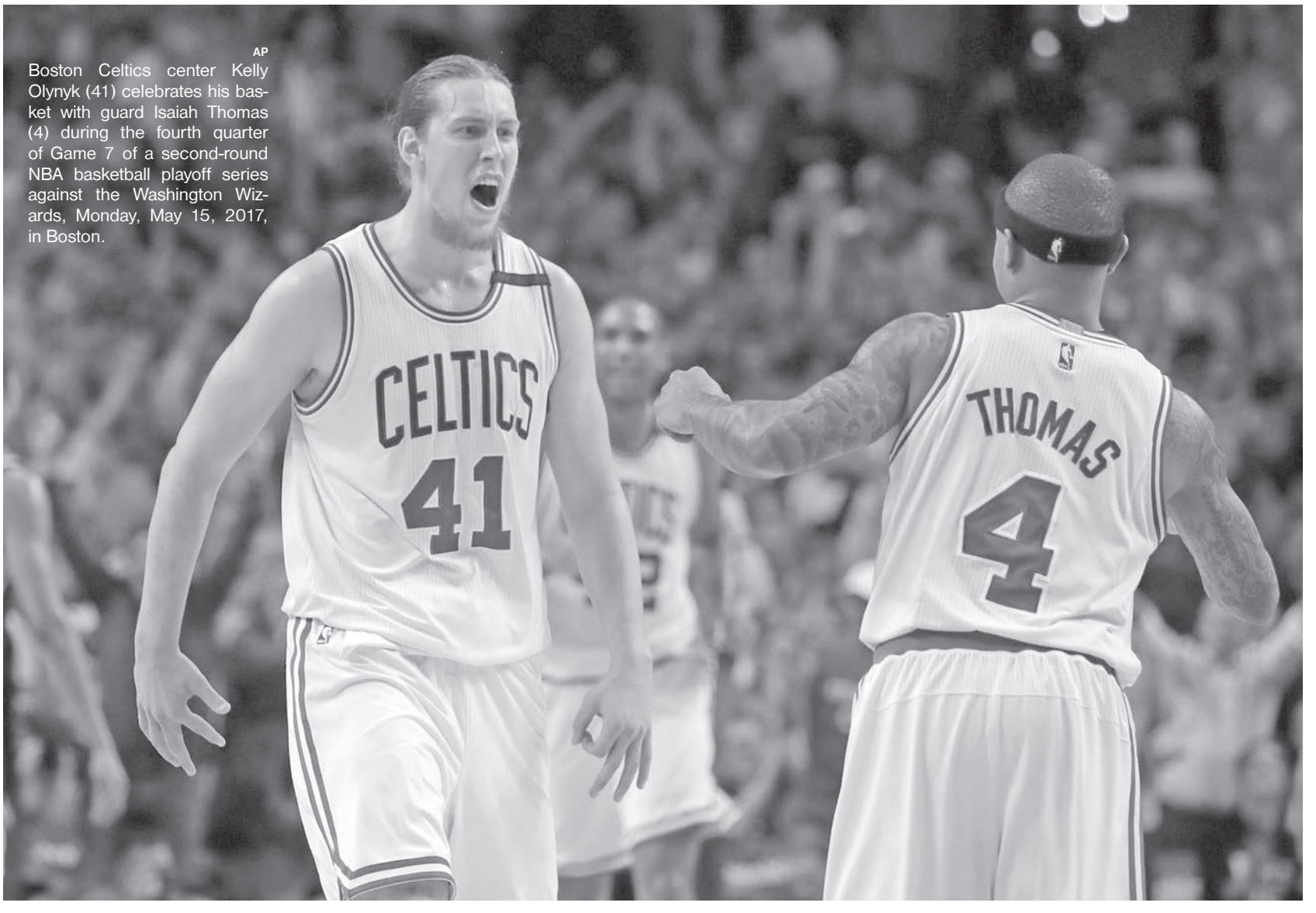
"I knew it would be a big time game tonight. I knew it wouldn't be easy at all," Thomas said. "And we came out on top."

Led by Olynyk the Celtics got a huge lift from their bench, outscoring their Wizards' counterparts 48-5. Boston also connected on 11 3-pointers, including 8 of 13 in the second half.

"We needed it," Olynyk said. "That's a tough team that we played seven tough games against and they can score. We needed to help out the starters, help out Isaiah."

Boston advances to the Eastern Conference finals, where it will host the Cleveland Cavaliers in Game 1 on Wednesday. It's the Celtics first appearance in the conference finals since 2012.

"What a special opportunity to get a chance to compete against them," Boston coach Brad Stevens said.



AP

Boston Celtics center Kelly Olynyk (41) celebrates his basket with guard Isaiah Thomas (4) during the fourth quarter of Game 7 of a second-round NBA basketball playoff series against the Washington Wizards, Monday, May 15, 2017, in Boston.

For Thomas it serves as the ultimate validation for a team that many felt was unworthy of the conference's top seed. It also marked the latest big performance by Thomas, in a playoff run that began in the haze of his younger sister's death in a car accident. The 28-year-old All-Star has called the basketball court his sanctuary, and he continues to credit his teammates for giving him the strength to perform at a high level.

"That says a lot about the team we are and we believe in each other," Thomas said. "The game wasn't always what we wanted it to be and it wasn't a perfect game. But we kept going and stayed the course."

Bradley Beal led the Wizards—which was playing it its first Game 7 since 1979 - with 38 points, including 24 in the second half.

"I don't care how well I played," Beal said afterward. "I don't care if I played bad. The end result...The only thing that matters is getting a win."

Otto Porter added 20 points. John Wall and Markieff Morris each finished with 18. But Washington also had 15 turnovers, leading to 17 Celtics' points.

Boston trailed 76-72 late in the third quarter before ending the period on a 13-3 spurt . The run grew to 22-5 in the opening minutes of the fourth as the Celtics' lead became 94-81.

But Washington quickly responded, scoring seven straight in just 51 seconds to get back within six.

Washington stayed close as Beal continued to score, including a four-point play . But Olynyk then took over. He scored 11 of 13 points for Boston as the Celtics stretched their advantage to 110-100.

"He just made shots," Marcin Gortat said of Olynyk. "He was the difference today—a huge difference."

Brooks played Beal and Wall 46 and 45 minutes, respectively, but said it was necessary to try to stay in the game.

"I knew it would come down to the last six minutes of the game," Washington coach Scott Brooks said. "They had that little run at the start of the fourth quarter."

The Celtics had the largest lead of the first half at 10-2, but that gap was quickly erased by Washington as Boston started to accumulate fouls.

Marcus Smart, Amir Johnson and Olynyk all were whistled for three fouls in the opening 24 minutes, though Smart did inject some life into a second unit that outscored their Wizards' counterparts 19-5.

Wall and Beal each were beneficiaries scoring eight and nine points, respectively in the second quarter to help the Wizards take a two-point lead into halftime.

"It's tough. We came out here Game 7 and gave everything we had. Just came up short," Wall said. "Our goal was to get to Eastern Conference finals and we came up one game short. So it's a not a satisfied season to me."

Debate rages on about play that sidelined Spurs' Leonard

By BRIAN MAHONEY
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

Zaza Pachulia's foul on Kawhi Leonard was either dirty or just dangerous, and Gregg Popovich isn't interested in the NBA's opinion.

"I don't care what the league does. I'm just telling you how I feel," the Spurs coach said Monday. "The league is the league. They do what they do. I couldn't care less."

Popovich ruled Leonard out for Game 2 of the Western Conference finals, but the debate about the play that caused his injured left ankle raged on long after Leonard crashed to the floor in pain Sunday.

"That was the right defense from my side to challenge the shot," Golden State's Zaza Pachulia said. "I wish that he hadn't landed on my foot and honestly I had no idea he landed on my foot until I turned back and he was already on the ground, because as soon as he released the ball I turned around trying to chase the rebound and see where the ball was going."

The play that knocked Leonard out of the game and helped Golden State's huge rally in Game 1 of the series is one the NBA started cracking down on four seasons ago in an effort to protect jump shooters.

And more protection is the last thing shooters need, Cleveland guard Iman Shumpert said.

"Trust me, we don't need the league putting in any more fouls and advantages for offensive players. We don't need it. That's something I think, if you take a contest out of the game, come on," he said.

But with long-distance shots playing such a heavy role in offenses these days, the risk of injury isn't going away.

"We see this quite often in the NBA where that defender, they just go a little too far and you're not allowed to take the landing area away from the jump shooter," Joe Borgia, the NBA's senior vice president of replay and referee operations, said Sunday while discussing the foul that was called on Pachulia on his "Making the Call" video segment on NBA.com.

"Obviously a very dangerous situation for players, and the referee luckily stayed on that play all the way until the shooter landed and the foul was called on the play."

That wasn't enough for ABC analyst Jeff Van Gundy, who argued that Pachulia should have been called for a flagrant one for intentionally sliding under Leonard, which both players denied.

"Did he step under it? Like on purpose? No," Leonard said afterward. "He was contesting a shot. The shot clock was coming down. I'll have to see the play."

Leonard is respected for the way he defends without fouling, but opponents hated the way former Spurs defensive ace Bruce Bowen crowded too closely on their jumpers.

Pachulia said he was just trying to contest the shot and seemed surprised at first that a foul was even called, though many observers on social media thought the play looked suspect.

"Zaza's not a dirty player. You've got to time that perfectly if you want to hurt somebody," teammate Kevin Durant said. "We're not that type of team. Kawhi's an unbelievable player. We've got nothing but respect for him. We wish that he gets healthy. ... I wish it didn't happen, but I don't think it was intentional.

"You can't listen to people on Twitter, they're irrational."

But they aren't the only ones lately wondering if one of those fouls was intentional. Markieff Morris did the same after the Washington forward landed on Al Horford's foot in Game 1 of their Eastern Conference semifinal, knocking him out of a game the Celtics rallied to win.

Realizing the potential for ankle injuries—a problem for Warriors star Stephen Curry earlier in his career—the NBA made the play one of its points of emphasis for officials before the 2013-14 season, stressing that shooters had to be given the freedom to land. But in a series like the West finals, matching the Warriors' lethal outside shooters against a Spurs team that led the league in 3-point percentage during the regular season, neither team is going to want to allow too much space.

That's all Pachulia had in mind.

"I really feel bad for the guy," he said, "I wish it didn't happen and it had a different result."

Gurriel hits grand slam as Astros beat Marlins, 7-2

MIAMI (AP)—Short on sleep, the Houston Astros finally stirred in the sixth inning Monday night when Yuli Gurriel hit a grand slam to help beat the Miami Marlins 7-2.

The Astros arrived at their hotel at 5 a.m. after a doubleheader in New York against the Yankees and were listless and hitless against Dan Straily until the fifth inning.

Josh Reddick doubled in the sixth off Junichi Tazawa (1-1) and after a walk and a hit batter loaded the bases, Gurriel connected with two outs for a 4-1 lead.

It was the Astros' second grand slam in two games. Alex Bregman hit one in Sunday night's win at Yankee Stadium.

Jose Altuve homered in the ninth and drove in three runs.

AP

Houston Astros starting pitcher Joe Musgrove (59) messes up the hair of Yuli Gurriel (10) after Gurriel hit a grand slam during the sixth inning of a baseball game against the Miami Marlins, Monday, May 15, 2017, in Miami.

Diamondbacks 7, Mets 3

In Phoenix, Yasmany Tomas, Jeff Mathis and Daniel Descalso homered in a six-run eighth inning as Arizona handed struggling New York its fifth straight loss.

Jake Lamb also went deep for the Diamondbacks, the latest team to take advantage of a beleaguered Mets bullpen.

Tomas snapped a 1-all tie with a three-run homer off Hansel Robles (4-1). Mathis' two-run shot also came against Robles, hit hard for the second consecutive outing after a strong start to the season.

Indians 8, Rays 7

In Cleveland, Indians starter Carlos Carrasco left early with an injury but five relievers kept the lead and helped Cleveland hold off Tampa Bay.

Carrasco was pulled because of tightness in his left pectoral muscle after giving up an RBI single to Brad Miller. The right-hander allowed five runs in 3 2/3 innings and left with Cleveland ahead 7-4.

Boone Logan (1-0) retired both batters he faced. Andrew Miller permitted his first run of the season in the eighth and Cody Allen gave up a solo homer to Peter Bourjos in the ninth before earning his 10th save.

Lonnie Chisenhall hit a three-run homer in the first when Cleveland scored five times off Chris Archer (3-2). Francisco Lindor added a solo shot in the eighth.

Angels 5, White Sox 3

In Anaheim, California, Mike Trout homered for the fourth consecutive game to help Los Angeles top Chicago.

The Angels scored each of their runs via the long ball. Kole Calhoun hit a three-run homer to right in the fifth inning and Trout followed with a drive to left. Martin Maldonado homered in the seventh inning.

Angels right-hander Jesse Chavez (3-5) pitched seven-plus innings and Bud Norris got four outs for his eighth save.

Jose Abreu hit a two-run homer for Chicago and Tyler Saladino had an RBI triple. Mike Pelfrey (0-4) allowed four runs and three hits in 4 2/3 innings.

Giants 8, Dodgers 4

In San Francisco, Eduardo Nunez was credited with a two-run infield single when Los Angeles pitcher Brandon McCarthy lost track of a baserunner as San Francisco beat the Dodgers for its season-high fourth straight win.

The hit by Nunez was the key play in a four-run fourth inning that broke the game open and helped Matt Cain (3-1) earn his second win of the season against the Dodgers.

San Francisco opened the inning with three straight hits off McCarthy (3-1), with an RBI double by Brandon Crawford putting the Giants up 2-1. That's when things really got interesting.

With runners on second and third, Nunez hit a broken-bat grounder up the middle that shortstop Corey Seager fielded just beyond the infield dirt. Buster Posey easily scored from third and Brandon Crawford scored from second after Seager hurried the ball to McCarthy on the mound and McCarthy didn't realize Crawford was running.

Braves 10, Blue Jays 6

In Toronto, Freddie Freeman hit his 13th homer and Nick Markakis had three RBIs as Atlanta snapped Toronto's five-game winning streak.

Matt Kemp had four hits and scored three times for the Braves, who have won three of four.

Freeman matched Washington's Ryan Zimmerman and Milwaukee's Eric Thames atop the National League home run leaderboard with a three-run shot off Leonel Campos in a four-run sixth.

Freeman has connected against all 10 teams Atlanta has faced this season.

Bartolo Colon (2-4) allowed three runs, two earned, in five innings to win for the first time since April 16.

Blue Jays right-hander Mike Bolsinger (0-2) gave up six runs in 4 2/3 innings. Toronto pitchers set a franchise record by hitting five batters.

Mariners 6, Athletics 5

In Seattle, Nelson Cruz and Kyle Seager each hit a two-run homer and Yovani Gallardo pitched effectively into the seventh inning as Seattle made the most of four hits to hold off Oakland.

Oakland scored twice in the ninth, when closer Edwin Diaz walked four of the five batters he faced to force in a run. Tony Zych relieved and the second run scored on Khris Davis' groundout. After an intentional walk to Yonder Alonso loaded the bases again, Zych struck out Adam Rosales looking on a 3-2 pitch for his first major league save.

Cruz's home run, his ninth, put Seattle up 4-0 in the second as the Mariners capitalized on five walks by Sean Manaea (1-3), activated earlier in the day off the disabled list.

Oakland pulled to 4-3 on a solo homer by Davis in the fourth and a two-run shot by Stephen Vogt in the fifth. Both came off Gallardo (2-3), who allowed three runs and four hits in 6 1/3 innings.

Padres 6, Brewers 5, 10 innings

In San Diego, Hunter Renfroe hit a two-run homer with no outs in the 10th inning to give San Diego a win over Milwaukee.

Renfroe's homer to left, his seventh, came off Oliver Drake (2-1) with Erick Aybar aboard on a leadoff single.

The Brewers took a 5-4 lead in the top of the inning on Eric Sogard's homer with one out against Jose Torres (2-2).

The Brewers tied it at 4-4 in the eighth. Hernan Perez's leadoff fly ball to shallow right off Brad Hand went for a triple when second baseman Cory Spangenberg and right fielder Renfroe both went for it and missed. Perez scored the tying run on Domingo Santana's RBI single to right with one out.

Federer to skip French Open, focus on grass, hard courts

By HOWARD FENDRICH
AP TENNIS WRITER

After spending a few days practicing on clay courts in Switzerland, a healthy and well-rested Roger Federer settled on his upcoming schedule: He will bypass the French Open and turn his focus to Wimbledon, then the U.S. Open.

"It was a tough decision to take, because he likes to play the French Open, likes to play the big tournaments," Severin Luthi, who coaches Federer, said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press on Monday. "But I think it was the best decision for him. It's an investment in his career—for this season and for the coming seasons."

Federer posted a message entitled "Roger to skip Roland Garros" on his website on Monday, announcing that he will stay away from competing on clay entirely in 2017 and instead will prepare for the grass- and hard-court events that follow.

"I've been working really hard, both on and off the court, during the last month," Federer wrote, "but in order to try and play on the ATP World Tour for many years to come, I feel it's best to skip the clay court season this year."

It's the second year in a row that Federer pulled out of the French Open, where main-draw play begins in Paris on May 28. He won the title at the clay-court major in 2009 to complete a career Grand Slam.

His absence a year ago, because of back and knee problems that plagued him in 2016, ended his record streak of appearing in 65 consecutive Grand Slam tournaments—every one since the start of 2000.

Now, though, the owner of a record 18 major championships feels great.

And he wants to keep it that way.

"We are in a good situation. He is (healthier than he's) been in the last five years. We could take the decision out of a position of strength," Luthi said about pulling out of the French Open.

"We talked a few times about it but wanted to give ourselves time to think about it," he added. "We spoke again yesterday and made the final decision today."

Luthi said Federer plans to play at two grass-court tournaments in Germany—at Stuttgard starting June 12, and at Halle the week after that - before heading to Wimbledon, where play begins on July 3.

The 35-year-old Federer has not played in a tournament since April 2, when he won his third title of 2017 at the Miami Open and improved his record this year to 19-1, all on hard courts, his best start in more than a decade. At the time, he said he would be taking a break from the tour and did not commit to returning in time for the French Open.

"The start to the year has been magical for me but I need to recognize that scheduling will be the key to my longevity moving forward," Federer wrote. "Thus, my team and I concluded today that playing just one event on clay was not in the best interest of my tennis and physical preparation for the remainder of the season."

Clay tends to be the most physically demanding of tennis' surfaces, requiring plenty of tricky movement and sliding, along with lengthy, grind-it-out points.

Abdul-Jabbar: 1-and-done makes college hoops a 'travesty'

NEW YORK (AP)—Kareem Abdul-Jabbar likes experienced players, part of the reason he picked San Antonio to knock off Golden State.

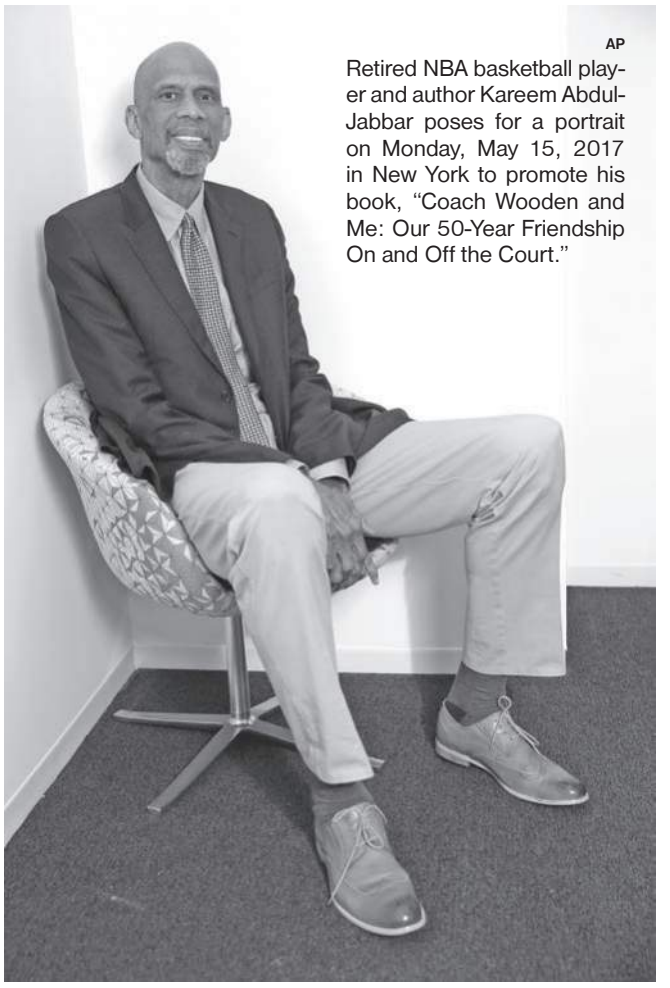
And it's one reason he thinks John Wooden wouldn't have the same enjoyment or success if he were coaching today. His coach at UCLA would have disliked how the one-and-done era has changed the college basketball game that the Bruins ruled under Wooden.

"He wouldn't have been able to do it now," Abdul-Jabbar said Monday in an interview at The Associated Press headquarters. "It's a totally different circumstance now. Kids aren't going to college to get an education and play ball. It's one or the other."

The NBA's draft lottery is Tuesday and the team that gets the No. 1 pick will likely use it on a freshman, such as point guards Markelle Fultz or Lonzo Ball. They might become All-Stars but they won't arrive in the NBA with anywhere near the resume of Abdul-Jabbar, who won three championships in three seasons from 1967-69—freshman were ineligible at the time—and was the Final Four Most Outstanding Player each time.

"They're there less than six months. It's not even six months and they're gone," Abdul-Jabbar said. "It's a travesty, I think. They're just using the college system as a stepping stone to the NBA and that's really unfortunate. I think an education is vital to having a good life and these guys aren't getting that opportunity. It's sad."

Dressed in a dark blazer, blue tie and khaki slacks, the goateed Abdul-Jabbar spoke in a studio about his relationship with Wooden in his new book "Coach Wooden and Me: Our 50-Year Friendship On and Off the Court." The book details Wooden's influence on his life as a player in college and years later as they became closer when Abdul-Jabbar returned to Los Angeles to play for the Lakers.



AP

Retired NBA basketball player and author Kareem Abdul-Jabbar poses for a portrait on Monday, May 15, 2017 in New York to promote his book, "Coach Wooden and Me: Our 50-Year Friendship On and Off the Court."

Wooden won 10 national championships, most by a men's coach, but Abdul-Jabbar hopes readers will see that many of Wooden's best lessons weren't about sports.

"I hope that they get an understanding of the man, what he was all about and what he gave us in terms of an understanding of how to be good citizens, good husbands, good fathers," Abdul-Jabbar said. "That was really what he was all about. He used basketball just as a metaphor to teach us about life and he did a great job."

Abdul-Jabbar, the NBA's career scoring leader, is now 70 and does some work for ESPN. He picked the Spurs to beat the top-seeded Warriors in the Western Conference finals.

"I went with the Spurs because they have a more veteran team and the way that they play the game will work because they can play an inside game and an outside game," he said. "Golden State is more of an outside shooting team and they're very good at it. So that's why they play the games. We get to go see them and find out if our speculation was accurate or way off base."

It appeared it was going to be right on, at least for Game 1, when the Spurs built a 25-point lead. But they lost Kawhi Leonard to an ankle injury in the third quarter and Golden State rallied for a 113-111 victory.

"I think San Antonio can challenge them but they're going to need Leonard if they're going to take it all the way," Abdul-Jabbar said.

D-9ERS

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in the first two innings of their April 23 game and matched the Comets' six runs in the sixth inning during the continuation of their duel to cling to its lead en route to win No. 6. Relief pitcher M.J. Sakisat helped the D-9ers preserve its slim advantage after fanning out two batters at the top of the ninth and last inning. Sakisat first walked leadoff batter Vince Cabrera before striking out Eli Miwata for the first out. J-Boy Mendiola was next at bat, but his fly ball was caught by leftfielder Ben Lizama, moving the D-9ers one out away from wrapping up the match. The D-9ers quickly got the last out when Sakisat struck out Brandon Pua.

Roke and E.J. Tenorio combined for seven runs in the D-9ers victory over the Comets with the former going 3-for-6 at bat and adding two RBIs.

Meanwhile, against the BSI Aces, the D-9ers recorded six runs in the last two innings to steal the win. The D-9ers were behind after the first six innings, 2-5, before going for a strong finish to stun the BSI Aces. Robert Tudela made two runs in the final three innings with his last off a D-9ers error at the top of the ninth giving the team enough cushion. Roke Tenorio added one run off a passed ball and drove in Richard Atalig with his double in the seventh inning to start the D-9ers' comeback bid. Designated hitter Jesse Sablan then had an RBI single and also reached off a passed ball, while Atalig knocked in an RBI single, too at the top of the eight to put the D-9ers in the driver's seat, 7-6.

Tudela's run at the top of the ninth gave the D-9ers more breathing room, 8-6. However, a Ben Jones run off a fielder's choice in the last inning threatened the D-9ers as the BSI Aces only had one out with John Tudela on first base. The BSI runner was eventually left stranded at first, as the D-9ers got the last two outs with first baseman John Acosta catching a fly from Juan Iguel and then teaming up with shortstop Roke Tenorio for a 6-3 putout play.

ACKERMAN

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gles for Norwich University, a private military school in Vermont and competes in the North Division of the GNAC. He posted a 7-3 record in his rookie season and teamed up with Hyte at No. 2 doubles, having a 6-4 mark in the competition.

Before suiting up for the Cadets, Ackerman played for the CNMI Junior National Team and saw action in the North Pacific Regional Championships and the Pacific Oceania Junior Championships. He also joined the 2013 Northern Marianas Open Junior Championships—a world ranking tournament under the Junior ITF Circuit—and represented the Commonwealth in the 2014 Oceania Cross Country Championships.

Ackerman joins Thea Minor (Henderson State University), Mikayla Lopez (New Mexico Military Institute), Amami Sakano (University of Hawaii-Hilo), and Chris Cajigan (University of Hawaii-Manoa) to the growing list of former CNMI junior players who are now playing in the collegiate ranks.

Celtics, Lakers, 76ers have plenty riding on the NBA lottery

NEW YORK (AP)—Paul Pierce, Kevin Garnett and Steve Nash are gone, though on Tuesday they won't be forgotten.

The former All-Stars have as much to do with this NBA draft lottery as the players of tomorrow.

The Boston Celtics can benefit in a big way from trading two former champions, while the Los Angeles Lakers hope a failed trade for one point guard won't cost them a shot at another.

Even though the Celtics will play in the Eastern Conference finals this season, they have a 25 percent of landing the No. 1 pick. The Lakers had the NBA's third-worst record in the league but are in danger of not having a lottery pick at all if the balls bounce the way the odds say they will.

A look at some of the teams to watch Tuesday, and how they got in their spot:

CELTICS: When Boston sent Pierce and Garnett to Brooklyn as part of a draft-night trade in 2013, the Celtics not only acquired the Nets' first-round picks in 2014, 2016 and 2018, but also the right to swap first-round selections in 2017. The timing couldn't have worked out better, as the Nets tumbled all the way to the worst record in the NBA this season. Boston can select no lower than fourth in the June draft.

LAKERS: Nash and Dwight Howard were on the cover of Sports Illustrated in 2012 after the Lakers acquired the two stars in separate trades, but Nash made it through just 65 games over two seasons because of back problems. The Lakers only get to keep the pick they dealt to Phoenix as part of the deal if it lands inside the top three on Tuesday - and there's about a 53 percent chance it won't.

76ERS: The winners of last year's lottery will really "Trust the Process" if they win even bigger Tuesday. If the Lakers fall out of the top three, their pick goes to the 76ers, who would get it from Phoenix per terms of a three-team trade with Milwaukee at the 2015 deadline. And since it starts in the No. 4 spot with its own pick, Philadelphia can arrive at next month's draft potentially owning a pair of top-four selections.

TWIN

From Page 28

away from topping the U12A age group after dominating National Elite Academy in the semifinals, 8-3. In the other semis pairing, TanHoldings-1 shut down MP United-1, 2-0, to join Kanoa-2 in the winner-take-all finale. In the title match, Kanoa-2 pulled off a 4-3 victory over TanHoldings-1, while MP United rounded out the Top 3 after downing NEA in the consolation match, 8-2.

In the U12B finals, Matansa eased past Southern United FC, 9-2, while MP United had another third-place finish after edging Kanoa, 5-4. Matansa marched into the finals after routing Kanoa in the first second game, 7-0, while Southern United labored for a 7-6 triumph in the other Final Four tiff to arrange a finals duel against the eventual champion.

Matansa made it two in a row when it blanked TanHoldings in the U10 title showdown, 5-0, while MP United was ranked third anew following a 2-0 victory over Paire. Matansa and TanHoldings arranged their championship match after posting contrasting wins in the semifinals. TanHoldings slipped past Paire, 3-2, while Matansa walloped MP United, 4-0.

In the U8 division, both the finals and the consolation games were decided by only a point. TanHoldings nosed out Matansa-1 in the title game, 4-3, while Kanoa outlasted Southern United, 3-2, in the third place match. TanHoldings barged into the finals after blanking Kanoa in their semis pairing, 2-0, while Matansa-1 topped Southern United in the other Final Four tiff, 3-1.

Games in the 3 vs 3 tournament were played for 20 minutes and teams in each age group competed in round-robin elimination. The Top 4 teams per division then advanced to the playoffs and the last two squads left standings battled for the championship.

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association hosted the weekend competition to join the AFC family in celebrating the AFC Grassroots Football Day (May 15). The CNMI was one of the record 38 AFC-member nations that held the grassroots tournament, which AFC introduced in 2013 to instill positive values such as teamwork, mutual respect and fair play among the youths and stimulate social development in communities across the continent.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	22	13	.629	—
Baltimore	22	14	.611	½
Boston	19	18	.514	4
Tampa Bay	19	22	.463	6
Toronto	17	22	.436	7

Central Division

Minnesota	19	15	.559	—
Cleveland	20	17	.541	½
Detroit	18	18	.500	2
Chicago	17	19	.472	3
Kansas City	16	21	.432	4½

West Division

Houston	27	12	.692	—
Los Angeles	20	21	.488	8
Texas	19	20	.487	8
Seattle	18	21	.462	9
Oakland	16	22	.421	10½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	24	13	.649	—
New York	16	21	.432	8
Philadelphia	14	21	.400	9
Atlanta	14	21	.400	9
Miami	14	23	.378	10

Central Division

St. Louis	21	15	.583	—
Milwaukee	21	18	.538	1½
Cincinnati	19	18	.514	2½
Chicago	18	19	.486	3½
Pittsburgh	16	22	.421	6

West Division

Colorado	24	15	.615	—
Los Angeles	22	17	.564	2
Arizona	22	18	.550	2½
San Francisco	16	24	.400	8½
San Diego	15	25	.375	9½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AFC 3 x 3 Grassroots Football Tournament

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ

Participants in the AFC 3x3 Grassroots Football Tournament pose for a group photo after receiving their trophies, medals, and event T-shirts last at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

TanHoldings FC is the champion in the U8 division. They are joined in the photo by Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director Michiteru Mita, second row left.

MP United FC players and their coach are recognized for placing third place in the U10 age group.

Matansa FC's U10 players are all smiles after winning the division championship.

Kanoa FC players and coaches finished third in the U8 division and are joined in the photo by NMIFA general secretary Ross Zapanta, second row left, and technical director Michiteru Mita.

Matansa FC players and coaches show their runner-up medals in the U8 division

TanHoldings FC players and coaches gather for a photo after receiving their runner-up medals in the U10 division.

Celtics power past Wizards in Game 7, 115-105

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Gurriel hits grand slam as Astros beat Marlins, 7-2

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Ackerman gets top rookie honors

Twin victories for Matansa; TanHoldings, Kanoa-2 prevail

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Matansa Football Club clinched a pair of titles, while TanHoldings FC and Kanoa FC-2 split the two other division championships in the Asian Football Confederation Grassroots Football Day 2017 3 vs 3 Tournament held last Saturday at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

Matansa won the co-ed U12B and U10 division crowns, while TanHoldings prevailed in the U8 category, and Kanoa-2 ruled the U12A competition.

Kanoa-2 moved a win

See TWIN on Page 26

JON PEREZ
TanHoldings players and their coaches proudly show the miniature championship trophies they received during the awards ceremony for the U8 division of the Asian Football Confederation Grassroots Football Day 2017 3 vs 3 Tournament held last Saturday at the Koblerville Elementary School Field. Also in the photo is NMIFA technical director Michiteru Mita, second row left.

NORWICH UNIVERSITY PHOTO
Dylan Ackerman returns a shot during one of his games in the NCAA Division III in his rookie season for the Norwich University.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Former CNMI junior tennis player Dylan Ackerman had an outstanding freshman season with Norwich University in the NCAA Division III.

The 19-year-old was named Rookie of the Year in the Great Northeast Athletic Conference, besting several freshmen from six other schools in the GNAC. With this recognition, Ackerman became only the third Norwich player to win ROY honors and the first in six years. Steve Couture was the first Cadet to take the GNAC Rookie of the Year in 2000, while Fritz Kaelber was the second one, getting the same plum 10 years later.

The Saipan Southern High School graduate earned the ROY trophy after winning a record five Rookie of the Week awards this season. He topped the weekly competition for four straight times, beginning in early March before bagging his fifth in late April.

He received the coveted Rookie of the Year award last week (May 10), joining his two other veteran teammates in the league's postseason recognition. Ackerman also made it to the GNAC Second Team All-Conference, while his fellow Cadets and seniors Ian Hyte and Jay Carter were named to the GNAC First Team All-Conference.

Ackerman plays No. 2 sin-

See ACKERMAN on Page 26

D-9ers keeps playoff hopes alive

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Two straight victories brought the Saipan Stevedore D-9ers back into contention for a playoff berth in the 2017 Saipan Baseball League.

The D-9ers first pulled off an 8-7 upset over the second-ranked BSI Aces last Friday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field and then had a similar close win against the Comets last Monday, 14-13, to remain in the hunt for one of the last two semis seats in the eight-team field.

The D-9ers, which last Wednesday had its one foot on the exit door after losing to Go See Mark, now has a 6-7 record to tie the Falcons for the fifth to sixth spot in the team standings, pending results of last night's game between the defending champions Chalan Kanoa Bears (7-6) and Blue Jays. The D-9ers and Falcons (6-7) will play in a make-up game today and the winner will force at least a playoff for the last Final Four slot. A Bears victory last night would secure the defending champions a third semis ticket, leaving Titanium (7-7) and the winner in the Falcons-D-9ers tiff to fight for the final playoff berth.

The D-9ers scored six runs

See D-9ERS on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The D-9ers players and coaches huddle before the start of the seventh inning of their game against the BSI Aces in the 2017 Saipan Baseball League last Friday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.